

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

Regular Meeting
April 21, 2011
7:30 PM

SAU 55 Office
Plaistow, NH

Order

Chairwoman Aubrey 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. Baldwin, Mr. Bealo, Mr. Collins, Mrs. Kosta, Mr. Mascola, Mrs. Withee and Mr. Briggs (Student Representative)

Absent

Mr. Porcelli and Mrs. Steenson

Administrators Present

Mr. Feneberg, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Killen, Director of Elementary Education
Mr. Fantasia, Director of Athletics
Mr. Hogan, Timberlane Regional Middle School Principal
Mr. Woodworth, Timberlane Regional High School Principal
Mr. Snyder, Atkinson Academy Assistant Principal

Pledge

Mr. Baldwin led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Chairwoman Aubrey deferred approval of the April 7th minutes until the next meeting.

Delegations and Individuals

Student Council Report

Community Agent Kaylyn Ryan reported on Student Counsel activities including their April 12th meeting for new members and the regional meeting which focused on student independence by offering stations to teach students how to change a tire, CPR, self defense, etc. They also held officer elections: Hari was elected as president, Kirsten Herchenroader was elected to the vice president seat and Gabrielle Kosta was elected as secretary.

Timberlane Regional School Board Student Representative

Mr. Briggs reported on the World Fair as part of the Historical Honor Society. He attended the band performance in Concord (All States) and noted the school is preparing for prom season with tickets going on sale in May. He noted other graduation activities.

Current Business

Destination Imagination

DI Team members Kayleigh Sullivan, Nadine Shahin, Cara Bishop, Sierra Obi and Alex Silver came before the board to report on the team's standing relative to the Global Finals in Knoxville, Tennessee. Members provided a description of the Destination Imagination program. They then went on to describe their project called "Spinning A Tale" which involves a three-act skit on steam energy and combustion that was based on an historical race between two characters which was metaphoric of the rivalry between the two technologies. Students requested permission from the board to attend the Global Finals in Tennessee from May 25-27 as well as be excused from school on those days.

They went on to discuss the many different fundraising activities they have been conducting to fund their trip. They indicated they were hoping to solicit a donation from the school board in the amount of \$3,508.65

to cover the cost of transportation. Mr. Briggs noted that he had participated in Destination Imagination in the past and he supports their endeavor. Mr. Bealo stated he and his wife also coached a DI team in the past and they were generously supported by the School Board back then. He hopes the board will consider supporting this team as well.

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

Voted: To grant the approval for the team to attend the Global Finals in Tennessee on May 26-27 and to donate the amount of \$3,508.69 towards the cost of transportation.

DISCUSSION: It was noted the monies granted would come from the School Board miscellaneous fund.

Having no further discussion Chairwoman Aubrey called the vote; the motion carried 7-0-0.

Department Report – Athletics

Mr. Fantasia began his report by announcing many good things have been happening in athletics and physical and health education since he was before the board last year. Physical education and health classes have increased with an offering of more diverse activities. In the 2011-12 school year they will be offering six different courses including a Health II class with over 260 students signing up already. He reported the TRHS Health Teacher Katy Stray presented at the Nation Conference in San Diego and that her presentation focused on incorporating technology into the classroom. He noted how all of his teachers are working very hard on assessments and competencies. He went on to offer his observation of Danville's Patrick Ard's technique in teaching a modified floor hockey class – Mr. Fantasia is very impressed with the creativity of his teachers.

From the athletic program standpoint he is pleased to announce another championship. Additionally, at the end of the fall season, Timberlane placed first in sportsmanship for all of New Hampshire. This has been a focus and goal in his department. He then highlighted a trip he and Mr. Woodworth took with 30 athlete senior students to the NHIAA Scholar Athletes Ceremony. The criteria for this honor are to maintain a B+ average and participate in two sports.

He went on to say many District teams are involved in community service and fundraising projects: Toys for Tots, Buddy Reading program, Nashua North fundraiser for injured student, breast cancer awareness, Hoops for Hunger program, etc. This speaks to more than just playing in a game; there is a strong community spirit.

He then commended TRHS Senior Jake Simmering, the Student Ambassador to the NHIAA for past two years who has done an amazing job. Jake will be replaced by two students next year. Timberlane is fortunate to have such great students and great parents.

Fielding questions from the board, Mr. Fantasia indicated that he is incorporating the healthy eating promotion in the cafeteria with the nutritional piece in athletics and in the health and wellness classes. Mr. Mascola commended Mr. Fantasia for his efforts noting he has brought the department to a whole new level. Chairwoman Aubrey agreed and noted the goal a few years ago was to achieve first place in sportsmanship; they have done just that. Mr. Collins inquired about the recently updated athletic eligibility policy to which Mr. Fantasia stated he has reviewed it briefly and will likely be working with the Superintendent to implement it.

Literacy Update

Presenters were Mrs. Killen, Mr. Woodworth and Mr. Hogan. Mrs. Killen noted that the concept and process for literacy is very complex and as such, would be happy to provide detailed instruction to anyone who wished to get a better understanding of the curriculum process. Training would take about two hours but would be worthwhile.

She noted RTI and the District's strategic plan and how they are supporting and challenging students. She reviewed preschool through grade 3 and specific strategies used (learning to read, technology, library supports, etc.).

Mr. Hogan presented on literacy strategies at the middle school level. He noted reading, writing, comprehension and incorporating those into all subject areas. They use a program called "Keys to Literacy" teaching students three ways in which to extract information from the reading text. Enrichment programs were noted as well as literacy blocks that help to extend learning in this area.

Mr. Woodworth presented strategies at the high school level. He outlined competency frameworks and how they are consistent in the testing areas. He noted support systems in credit recovery, RTI, Evening Division, etc. and assessment tools. He reviewed grade level competencies and how they are aligning them with curriculum frameworks, NECAP, grade level expectations and others. He concluded by identifying new initiatives used to support literacy at the high school.

Mr. Baldwin inquired about the use of traditional English 1, 2, 3 to which Mr. Woodworth responded that there has been some changes to that curriculum to expand the teaching of literature from British literature to other countries – fitting in which a more global understanding. Chairwoman Aubrey thanked the presenters as well as the teachers who strive to better the learning of the students which results in the preparedness for higher student achievement.

Handwriting Curriculum

Mrs. Killen introduced Mr. Snyder who, as part of his graduate studies, took over the process of establishing handwriting curriculum for elementary level students. Mr. Snyder began by acknowledging members of the handwriting taskforce and then reviewed the goal set by the taskforce which was to find a consistent program, common language, and core instruction to fit the needs of 85% of the student in the District's elementary schools. He then detailed the process timeline that began in June 2010 through this evening's presentation to the board, with the curriculum to be implemented for the 2011-12 school year. He outlined the instructional sequence for pre-school to grade 5. He stated that after reviewing all the research that goes along with choosing curriculum, the taskforce decided on "Handwriting Without Tears."

Mrs. Killen stated the Curriculum and Assessment Committee has approved this curriculum and now they are here before the board to obtain board approval. She distributed a copy of the student handbook and teacher guidebook for board review. She indicated that all staff will be trained in this curriculum and noted dates in August when this is scheduled. She also noted an anticipated cost savings in training.

She elaborated on the logistics of implementing the curriculum in specific grade levels and how this will be incorporated into other subject areas. Fielding questions from board members Mrs. Killen stated that incorporating this new curriculum will bring all elementary schools inline as current curriculum practice is inconsistent throughout the District. Responding to Mr. Collins, Mr. Snyder stated that the review of the curriculum was open to anyone on staff and was made available to all elementary staff members – a process that took place over a period of two weeks. He stated there was representation from all grade levels. The goal is for more consistency in teaching through the grade levels with a focus on integrating the curriculum into current instruction.

Mrs. Killen indicated the implementation would be more or less partial as grades K-2 have already been using this curriculum. Transition will be implemented by teachers who already have an understanding of where the students are in handwriting; the teachers were instrumental in developing the transition plan and that they will be trained accordingly.

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

Voted: To accept the first reading of the handwriting curriculum, "Handwriting Without Tears." Having no further discussion Chairwoman Aubrey called the vote; the motion carried 7-0-0.

Mr. Collins requested access to the actual curriculum for board review prior to their adoption action. Mrs. Killen stated she would forward a website link to board members.

Summer Hours

Mr. Feneberg noted the SAU Board met the night before to consider a four-day work week for the summer months. He identified eight Fridays beginning July 1 through August 19 where the District would close all buildings for the purpose of energy and cost conservation. This has been an ongoing practice for the past five years and has been successful. Staff members will be scheduled to work their regular hours over a period of four days instead of five.

On a motion by Mrs. Kosta, seconded by Mrs. Withee

Voted: To implement a summer hours schedule for the Timberlane School District as presented. Having no further discussion Chairwoman Aubrey called the vote; the motion carried 7-0-0.

School Board Goals

Chairwoman Aubrey noted that she received very little feedback from board members relative to the board goals for the 2011-12 school year; Mr. Bealo submitted input earlier in the day; however it was too late to incorporate those changes for tonight's packet.

Mr. Bealo presented three changes for board consideration: 1) strike "Continue efforts to" from goal #1; 2) insert the word, "vocational training" in goal #2; and include the assessment strategies, "NECAP, SAT, SAT Subject, ACT and AP to goal #7.

Board members agreed to proposed changes 1 and 2, but not 3 citing the terminology in the goal already suggests the use of available standardized testing measurements.

Mr. Collins suggested the board incorporate a school board goals evaluation process to determine if the goals are being addressed appropriately. He would like to see an annual review and reflection on the goals whereby the board can measure whether or not they are successful in meeting them. Mr. Baldwin inquired how the goals are implemented throughout the District. Mr. Feneberg stated the goals are the school board goals and that District policy provides they be reviewed and measured by the board throughout the year. The board should be mindful of the framework necessary for aligning the school district, as a whole, with the goals and work towards that.

Board members discussed a schedule for ongoing board goal evaluation and how to evaluate (quarterly, at each meeting, etc.). Chairwoman Aubrey indicated she would discuss an evaluation process with the Superintendent and report back to the board.

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

Voted: To adopt the proposed School Board goals as amended (changes to goals # 1 & 2). Having no further discussion Chairwoman Aubrey called the vote; the motion carried 6-0-1 (Mr. Baldwin abstained).

Administrator's Report

Mr. Feneberg informed the board there are 19 staff members scheduled to retire at the end of the school year and that in the past it has been board practice to give them a parting/service gift of \$75. He inquired if the board wished to continue this practice noting the school board miscellaneous account balance of \$8,100 and the gift card total of \$1,425. He reminded board members the \$3,500 Destination Imagination donation is also funded from this account. By general consensus, the board approved the expenditure.

Personnel Report

Mr. Feneberg presented the personnel report and requested the board take appropriate action.

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

Voted: To accept the resignation of Kerry Momnie, Grade 5 Teacher at Danville.

Having no further discussion Chairwoman Aubrey called the vote; the motion carried 7-0-0.

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

Voted: To accept the retirements of Administrators Nancy Hart, Principal of Danville Elementary (20 years service), Sharon Joyce, Assistant Principal at Pollard School (38 years service), and Edwina Lovett, Director of Pupil Personnel Services (15 years service).

Having no further discussion Chairwoman Aubrey called the vote; the motion carried 7-0-0.

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

Voted: To accept the retirement of Kathy Fowler, District Elementary Math Mentor (30 years service).

Having no further discussion Chairwoman Aubrey called the vote; the motion carried 7-0-0.

Mr. Feneberg stated he has spoken with each retiree and notes the decision to retire was not an easy one. Each retiree felt they had more to contribute to the District; however, due to the potential restructuring of the New Hampshire Retirement System, they felt now was the best time to retire.

He then requested board renomination action on staff members who have completed their certification requirements for employment for the 2011-12 school year.

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

Voted: To nominate Lisa Bisson, TRHS Family & Consumer Science Teacher, Lee Anne Miller, Atkinson Pre-K Teacher, Dorette Migliori, TRHS Math Teacher, and Benjamin Morse, TRHS Physics Teacher.

Having no further discussion Chairwoman Aubrey called the vote; the motion carried 7-0-0.

Mr. Feneberg stated that having the three administrators file for retirement at such a late date forces the District into a tight time schedule to advertise, interview, and secure replacements for July 1 employment. Three committees are being established: he is heading up the PPS Director search, Kelli Killen, the Danville Principal search and Kelli is also assisting Principal Michelle Auger with the Pollard Assistant Principal search. He then solicited for one to two board members to serve on the PPS Director Search Committee. He outlined the committee schedule and noted interested members should notify the board Chair as soon as possible.

Committee and Reports of the School Board

Mrs. Withee reported on the recent Facilities Committee meeting. She noted the Committee supports the summer hours schedule. High arsenic levels have been detected at the high school; corrective actions are being taken with notification to parents. The summer project list is small in comparison to past years. All the schools are reporting in good shape. Small damage over the winter is being address with insurance claims by the Business Administrator.

Mrs. Kosta reported on Curriculum and Assessment. The Committee reviewed the new Literacy Skills curriculum for the learning centers for next year, Handwriting Without Tears, and literacy and standardized testing. She attended the Pollard 2nd grade play, the Timberlane Dance team showcase, Strut for a Cure, the SAU meeting, and the Pollard kitchen meeting with architects.

Mr. Collins reported the Community Relations Committee was cancelled, and the Budget Committee meeting met for organizational purposes. Facilities tours are expected in September.

Mr. Bealo has not attended any committee meetings yet, but spoke with Mr. Holland relative to the Technology Committee. Mr. Holland provided him with materials to prepare for serving on the committee. He attended the Understanding the Offer seminar at the high school by NHAEF relative to college. The seminar was very helpful, well attended and free – he encourages the District to continue offering these types of seminars.

Chairwoman Aubrey reported she attended the Facilities Committee meeting and then the Safety Committee meeting immediately following. She noted security updates, the Take Back Program, Health Response Team activities, CPR recertification, the District's worker's compensation performance, recent health fair, initiative to raise awareness for underage drinking, Fatal Reality has been scheduled, and an AED is in process of being installed at the SAU. She concluded by wishing safe travel for students traveling over April vacation.

Correspondence

None

Vendor and Payroll

Done

Other

Mr. Collins asked if the SINI and AYP reports are out and then requested an update be presented to the board at the next meeting.

Mr. Baldwin extended congratulations to Pollard and Atkinson 5th graders graduating the DARE Program. His DARE students' essays were amazing. He noted as part of the program, students commit to making good decisions.

Motion: Mr. Collins motioned to enter into a non-public session at 9:40 PM under RSA 91a:3 II (c), seconded by Mr. Mascola.

The members were polled:

Mrs. Aubrey	Yes
Mr. Baldwin	Yes
Mr. Bealo	Yes

Mr. Collins Yes
Mrs. Kosta Yes
Mr. Mascola Yes
Mrs. Withee Yes

Motion: Mrs. Kosta motioned to exit the non-public session at 9:50 pm, seconded by Mr. Collins.

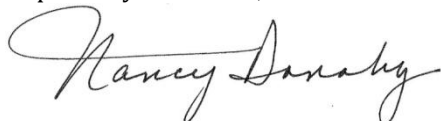
The members were polled:

Mrs. Aubrey Yes
Mr. Baldwin Yes
Mr. Bealo Yes
Mr. Collins Yes
Mrs. Kosta Yes
Mr. Mascola Yes
Mrs. Withee Yes

No action was taking during the non-public session.

With no other business before the board Chairwoman Aubrey adjourned the meeting at 9:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Nancy Danahy
School Board Clerk