

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

Regular Meeting
June 2, 2011
7:30 PM

SAU 55 Office
30 Greenough Road
Plaistow, NH

Call to Order

Madam Chair Aubrey called this June 2, 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, Peter Bealo, Robert Collins (8:00pm), Elizabeth Kosta (8:00pm), Michael Mascola, Louis Porcelli, Nancy Steenson, Lisa Withee and Connor Briggs (Student Representative).

Administrators Present

Mr. La Salle, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Stokinger, Business Administrator
Mr. Strainge, Director of Secondary Education
Mrs. Killen, Director of Elementary Education
Mrs. Lovett, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
Mr. Woodworth, Principal of TRHS

Madam Chair Aubrey led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance and requested the board pause for a moment of silence in memory of David Rockwell, Sr. who was one of the original founders of the Timberlane Regional School Board.

Minutes

The board reviewed the public minutes of the May 19, 2011 meeting.

Motion: Mrs. Withee motioned to approve the public meeting minutes of the May 19, 2011 meeting as written. Mr. Mascola seconded. With no further discussion, the motion carried 6-0-1 (Lt. Baldwin abstained).

Delegations and Individuals

Kaylyn Ryan, Community Agent reported on the following student activities: Statehouse field trip on May 20th, Kid's Nigh Out on May 21st, Teacher Appreciation Week from May 23rd to May 27th, Memorial Day activities, Welcome Wagon Tours for incoming 8th graders scheduled for June 13th, Student Council meeting scheduled for June 4th, Classroom Cleanup scheduled for June 21st through June 23rd, the purchase of new Student Council shirts, and planning of next year's Spirit Week.

Student Representative

Student Representative Connor Briggs welcomed the Hawaiian students and congratulated the band, orchestra and choir on their hard work in their recent concert. He noted Memorial Day, prom activities and the senior awards ceremony, with special thanks to the PTA for all their efforts with the after prom activities.

Current Business

Hawaiian Student Exchange Group

Madam Chair Aubrey acknowledged District guests from Hawaii. Both board members and administrators took turns personally introducing the students and then presented each with a gift of native maple syrup. Mr. Strainge provided the history behind the purchase of the maple syrup as well as highlighted the Mascioli family of Kingston and their journey in maple syrup production.

TRHS Hawaiian Trip Report

High School students Jessica Boucher and Rachel Matos reported on the student trip to Hawaii. They indicated the trip was life-changing in relation to their overall experience. They noted the different culture, the schools and the friendships made. They thanked Mr. Strainge for coordinating and chaperoning the trip. The students then fielded questions from board members.

Student Representative

Mr. Briggs introduced Sierra Obi, next year's student school board representative. He stated he was glad Sierra will be the next representative as she is a genuinely nice person and she will be a great advocate for the high school. Board members welcomed Sierra and noted her position officially begins in August.

Department Report – Pupil Personnel Services

Edwina Lovett reported on the accomplishments of the department over the past two years noting the department's good stewardship in spending the ARRA Grant of close to \$1 million dollars, i.e. Response to Intervention, Reading Street, math intervention materials, and high quality training. Staff is now providing direct instruction in their learning centers versus just supporting the classrooms. This is moving the children ahead.

She stated they are continuing their initiative in training in first aid, far surpassing other school districts. The nursing equipment has been updated, and additional training has been provided. The new wellness policy is being implemented with the district's first wellness fair this past year. The preschool program in Atkinson is going so well they were able to make the program self-sustaining as there is a big demand in enrollment. The district's partnership with Adventurelore, a program for high risk high school students is also going very well. This, coupled with the YEES program has been instrumental in keeping kids in school. She concluded her report citing the number of out-of-district placements have reduced as has the number of identified students.

Fielding questions from board members, Mrs. Lovett explained the reduction in identified students is due to the RTI program as some students are categorized as special needs because the reading or math instructional pace is too fast. RTI addresses those students – they just needed more intense methodology and additional instruction.

Mr. La Salle added the manifestation of a disability can be the reason a child is struggling, and not from the disability itself and that enough positive instruction and positive support will actually address the manifestation issue. The intensive instructional tools the district uses are benefiting those students.

Madam Chair Aubrey recognized Mrs. Lovett's upcoming retirement and thanked her for her service to the district. Mrs. Lovett responded that her experiences at Timberlane have been great and she is proud to represent the district.

High School Language Arts Curriculum

Mr. Woodworth reported Jen Clark, language arts teacher from the high school who has a background in reading, along with another teacher at the high school, has been instrumental in developing a program to assist struggling students in reading and language arts. This also affects students who are struggling in math and other subjects as typical struggles are not based on the student's interest or proficiency in a particular subject matter, but in the way in which they apply learning from textbooks. Students identified for this program are not limited to special education students. Their goal is to practice their reading and writing skills - this will benefit students in all of their subjects. The course will be taught by both special ed and regular ed teachers as a pilot program for next year.

He went on to say that they will have a complete competency-based curriculum for this course and will offer it at ½ a credit. This course does not replace English courses, but complements and supports them. Though elective, specific students will be recruited to take to support and assist their learning. This is a pass or fail course.

Motion: Mrs. Kosta motioned to approve the reading pilot program as presented by Mr. Woodworth. Mrs. Steenson seconded. With no further discussion, the motion carried by a unanimous vote of 9-0-0.

Policies

Mr. La Salle presented policies for first reading: DJD, DJGA, DJGB, DKC, DC, DM, DN, ADAC, BHC, GBD, BBAA, IIB and KI. It was noted that policy IIB was missing a word in its last paragraph.

Motion: Mr. Mascola motioned to approve the first reading of policies presented by Mr. La Salle. Mrs. Steenson seconded. With no further discussion, the motion carried by a unanimous vote of 9-0-0.

Administrators Report

Mr. La Salle yielded the floor to Business Administrator George Stokinger who provided a to-date budget status report. Mr. Stokinger noted favorable variances in the expenditure categories of salaries, benefits,

utilities, and other totaling \$1,680,000 and a favorable revenue variance in the category of catastrophic aid totaling \$137,269, bringing the grand total of favorable major variances to \$1,817,269. He went on to say they budgeted for \$900,000 in revenues and \$200,000 is earmarked for the capital reserve fund which leaves \$1,617,269 to be returned to the taxpayer to offset next year's tax bill.

Mr. La Salle provided a list of projects scheduled for the summer. Atkinson Academy: cafeteria bathrooms, wing roof repair; Danville Elementary: boiler #2 replacement, wing roof repair; District: gym floor refinishing; Middle School: carpet music practice rooms, remove islands in science rooms; Middle School/PAC: ground based transformer; Pollard: build overhang at Kindergarten drop-off area; Sandown Central: replace gym air handler unit; Sandown North: carpet media center, and install T-5 lighting in the gym.

He noted the Pollard kitchen project is well underway and that they discovered the building needed roof repair where the kitchen area abuts the main building. The cost for repair is \$16k which was not anticipated in the total project's cost; however, they are confident they can keep the project on budget despite this repair.

He reported on several site renovations; mostly paving related. He then went on to request an addition project for consideration – glass wall to segment off the middle school cafeteria. He cited security, comfort and additional space as justification with an estimated cost of \$12,140. Board members posed questions relative to design, use of space, necessity and funding. Mr. La Salle noted that they have been cautious not to spend any significant monies on the middle school as the long term plan is to replace it; however, the state has already placed a two-year moratorium on building aid and it looks promising that they will add an additional two years. This does not mean the district should stop spending money on the middle school; it is still a viable building. Realistically, they are looking at up to six or seven years before a new middle school could be ready (build a new high school, permitting process, construction, bonding, etc.).

Motion: Mr. Collins motioned to use \$12,000 from the surplus to fund the middle school cafeteria glass wall as presented by Mr. La Salle. Mrs. Steenson seconded. With further clarification that only the necessary funds would be used and the remaining balance would go back to the surplus, the motion carried 9-1-0 (Mr. Baldwin opposed).

Mr. La Salle informed the board that the teachers' contract provides a specific level of funding (\$95k) for professional development through courses and an additional \$42,500 for workshops and conferences. Historically they would be spent equally. Due to the availability of in-district workshops the workshop/conference money has not been expended; however, the course reimbursement moneys were completely spent by October of last year. He is requesting the board grant him the flexibility to access and transfer the use of the workshop/conference money for course reimbursement. He clarified he is not asking for more money, just to use existing funds.

Mr. Porcelli asked if this proposed change would require the approval of the teachers' union. Mr. La Salle replied affirmatively and added the district would draft a letter of understanding for the union to sign which would include a disclosure that this would not be a precedent-setting event.

Motion: Mr. Porcelli motioned to authorize the Superintendent flexibility to use workshop money to cover course reimbursements. Mrs. Steenson seconded.

Discussion: Mr. La Salle expounded on the matter by citing an example of a teacher's professional development schedule and how it relates to the union benefit as structured. They will look at this structure in upcoming negotiations to ascertain a more equitable distribution of reimbursement moneys. **Madam Chair Aubrey called the vote; the motion carried 9-0-0.**

Personnel

Mr. La Salle announced that he would like to make recommendation to fill two very important district positions: Principal of Danville Elementary and Director of Pupil Personnel Services. He recommended the board enter into to nonpublic session to interview and meet the prospective candidates.

Motion: Mr. Mascola motioned to enter into nonpublic session at 8:50 pm under RSA 91-A:3,II,(b) the hiring of any person as a public employee. Mrs. Kosta seconded. The board was polled:

Aubrey – yes

Baldwin – yes
Bealo – yes
Collins – yes
Kosta – yes
Mascola – yes
Porcelli – yes
Steenson – yes
Withee – yes

Motion: Mrs. Kosta motioned to exit into nonpublic session at 9:35 pm. The board was polled:

Aubrey – yes
Baldwin – yes
Bealo – yes
Collins – yes
Kosta – yes
Mascola – yes
Porcelli – yes
Steenson – yes
Withee – yes

No action was taken in nonpublic session.

Mr. La Salle recommended the board accept the resignations of Judith Joy, Sandown North Health and Technology teacher and Lynn Lewis, TRHS math teacher.

Motion: Mrs. Kosta motioned to accept the resignations of Judith Joy and Lynn Lewis. Mr. Baldwin seconded. With no further discussion, the motion carried 9-0-0.

Mr. La Salle recommended the board accept the retirement of Maria Bogacz, TRHS math teacher.

Motion: Mrs. Kosta motioned to accept the retirement of Maria Bogacz. Mr. Baldwin seconded. With no further discussion, the motion carried 9-0-0.

Mr. La Salle recommended the board nominate Nancy Barcelos to the position of Danville Elementary Principal.

Motion: Mr. Baldwin motioned to nominate Nancy Barcelos to the position of Danville Elementary School Principal. Mr. Collins seconded. With no further discussion, the motion carried 9-0-0.

Mr. La Salle recommended the board nominate Roxanne Wilson to the position of Director of Pupil Personnel Services.

Motion: Mrs. Kosta motioned to nominate Roxanne Wilson to the position of Director of Pupil Personnel Services. Mr. Baldwin seconded. With no further discussion, the motion carried 9-0-0.

Committee and Reports of the School Board

Mrs. Steenson reported she had the pleasure of seeing the 8th grade band and marching band at the Sandown Memorial Day activities and remarked the students were honorable and respectful. Mrs. Withee attended the musical at the high school (Chicago) and recent band concert. She commended students for their excellent performances. Mrs. Kosta reported on activities she chaperoned, performances she attended, and announced next week's upcoming curriculum meeting. Mr. Collins reported the Community Relations Committee met last week and will seek approval for a summer edition of School Board Notes at the next board meeting. He stated he is also working with setting the foundation for district-wide report cards to be published next fall. Mr. Bealo also attended the Community Relations Committee meeting and the last Technology Committee meeting of the year. He stated he saw some interesting demonstrations of software which will benefit students. He also attended the awards assembly and was proud to see how well many of the seniors are doing. Madam Chair Aubrey noted the next Safety Committee meeting is scheduled for June 8th at 10:15am. She attended many of the same concerts and performances as highlighted earlier and wished to commend the students for their many recognitions.

Correspondence

None

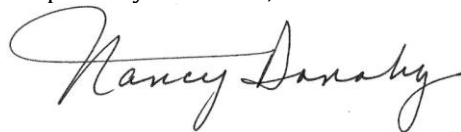
Vendor and Payroll

Done

Other

Having no further business before the board Madam Chair Aubrey adjourned the meeting at 9:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Danahy". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the text "Respectfully submitted,".

Nancy Danahy
School Board Clerk