

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

Regular Meeting
January 21, 2010
7:30 PM

SAU 55 Office
30 Greenough Road
Plaistow, NH

Call to Order

Madam Chair Kosta called this January 21, 2010 meeting of the Timberlane Regional School Board to order at 7:30 pm. Roll call was taken.

Board Members Present

Lori Aubrey, Arlene Champey, Elizabeth Kosta, Michael Mascola (7:45 pm), John Paone, Lisa Withee and Student Representative Holly Ange

Board Members not in attendance

William Baldwin, Robert Collins and Louis Porcelli

Administrators Present

Richard La Salle, Superintendent of Schools
Kelli Killen, Director of Elementary Education
Scott Strange, Interim Director of Secondary Education

Pledge

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

Minutes

The board reviewed the public and non-public minutes of the January 7, 2010 meeting.

Motion: Mrs. Aubrey motioned to approve the public and non-public meeting minutes of the January 7, 2010 meeting as written. Mrs. Withee seconded. With no further discussion, the motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

The board then reviewed the January 14, 2010 public hearing and special meeting after the public hearing minutes.

Motion: Mrs. Withee motioned to approve the January 14, 2010 public hearing and special meeting after the public hearing minutes meeting as written. Mr. Paone seconded. With no further discussion, the motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Delegations and Individuals

Ms. Holly Ange, Student Representative reported on the latest basketball and ice hockey scores. She noted the spring musical will be Beauty and the Beast which has been cast. She then congratulated Emily Korb and Callie Schena the new co-presidents of the senior class.

The French Honor Society is organizing fund raisers to send money to Haiti; ideas will be welcome by Madame Runnells or Kristina Valcourt. The high school is finishing up mid -terms, meaning the school year is already halfway over.

Current Business

2010-2011 School Calendar

Mrs. Killen presented the first draft of the 2010-2011 school year calendar. She noted that all administrators provided feedback to this calendar. She noted it is aligned with and supports the beliefs and high expectations of the Strategic Plan. She noted how it boosts strong leadership and improves instructional practice creating a rich academic environment. It will reduce the time it takes to move an innovative idea to full-scale with successful implementation. The calendar would create scheduled, sufficient and sustained

time for staff members to carry out the work of the school in collaborative Professional Learning Communities.

She believes student competencies from the Strategic Plan support the long periods of uninterrupted time for students to work towards all competencies. Family scheduling was also considered; all the early release and full professional development days are on the day before a long weekend or vacation with the hope that this will make arrangements for child care easier.

Mrs. Killen then reviewed each month and noted the delayed openings in November and March. These delayed openings would allow the voters time to vote during the busy voting time without the students present at school. Additionally, the teachers would be able to utilize this time for professional development. She noted that the schedule allows for longer blocks of time without breaks for students.

She explained with the reduced amount of professional development days this year (four) compared to last year (eight) that the staff is still moving forward but has lost some momentum. Mr. Straunge agreed that at the middle and high school level there is a slowdown of progress due to the reduced amount of professional development days.

Mrs. Aubrey voiced her concern for students who received a weekly special class on Friday's; they will miss many of their classes due to the schedule. Mr. La Salle suggested changing Fridays to first a Monday, then a Tuesday, etc so the student will all receive the same level of instruction.

Mrs. Kosta voiced her concern over the many Friday's before vacation, as staff might request those days off; she would like to see the delayed start days be changed to full days for students. Mr. La Salle would address this concern by meeting with the union to convey the importance of the professional development time and the days set aside for this task.

Mrs. Aubrey inquired if discussions were continuing regarding the modified schedule for the high school students. Mr. Straunge acknowledged that the discussions had ceased but, offered to resume them with the administration team at the high school.

Mr. Paone noted he would like to see the early release days removed from the schedule. Mrs. Killen noted the importance of the early release days and how they are utilized. She clarified the number of professional development days the teachers are offered each year is stated in the union contract and if they want to increase them they would need to negotiate that with the union. She would be happy to look into increasing the days in the future.

Mrs. Aubrey liked the full week scheduled for the first week of school and Mrs. Kosta did not cite her concern over the hot weather at the end of August.

It was noted that the vacation schedule in February may change when the Massachusetts vacation schedule is determined.

Mathematics Curriculum

Mr. Straunge noted that this is a second reading on the 2010-2011 Mathematics curriculum.

Motion: Mrs. Aubrey motioned to accept the second reading of the Mathematics curriculum, seconded by Mrs. Champey. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously 6-0.

Administrators Report

Mr. La Salle reported the Department of Environmental Services water report for the Pollard Elementary School has come back indicating high levels of arsenic. Since the new standards were issued the problem with the arsenic levels seems to re-occur, with a permanent solution evading the district. Once the levels are reduced the water is checked and the levels appear to be within the guidelines. When the water is re-tested a short time later the levels increase again. Mr. La Salle would like to opportunity to investigate a permanent solution to this problem. He wants to know what the district can do to meet the new requirements. A public notification will be sent home with students notifying parents of the current levels.

Personnel

None

Committee and Reports of the School Board

Mrs. Withee noted the Facilities committee will meet on Tuesday, January 26 at the SAU office at 8:30 am.

Mrs. Champey attend the Policy Committee meeting today and reported they are reviewing a number of policies with some that will be ready to be presented to the board at the next meeting and others requiring additional work. She noted that Winfried Feneberg has assumed the responsibility of the policy committee and is tackling the older policies that need reviewing. She added the next meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2010. The Safety meeting scheduled in January is canceled but will be re-scheduled for March. Should issues need to be addressed the Facilities committee will be advised and will address the issues as needed.

Correspondence

None

Vendor and Payroll

Done

Other

Madam Chair Kosta noted Roberts Rules training session is scheduled for January 27 at the SAU office. Speakers will be Neil Reardon and Barry Sargent with ten board members scheduled to attend.

The annual report date of availability was incorrectly stated at the Public Hearing, they will be available on February 25, 2010 as required by law.

She asked all board members to arrive at 7:00 pm on February 18 TRSB meeting to sit for a photo for the annual report and year book.

Final note: the candidates filing deadline is January 29 at 5:00 pm. With no further business, Madam Chair Kosta adjourned the meeting at 8:05PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Danahy
School Board Clerk