

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

Special Meeting
March 29, 2010
7:35 PM

SAU 55 Office
30 Greenough Road
Plaistow, NH

Call to Order

Madam Chair Kosta called this March 29, 2010 special meeting of the Timberlane Regional School Board to order at 7:35 pm. Roll call was taken.

Board Members Present

Lori Aubrey, Robert Collins (8:15 pm), Elizabeth Kosta, Michael Mascola, John Paone, Nancy Steenson, and Lisa Withee

Board Members not in Attendance

William Baldwin and Louis Porcelli

Administrators Present

Richard La Salle, Superintendent of Schools
Edwina Lovett, Director of Pupil Personnel
Kelli Killen, Director of Elementary Education
Scott Strainge, Interim Director of Secondary Education
Don Woodworth, Principal of TRHS
Sean Kiley, Assistant Principal of TRHS

Also in attendance from the law offices of Soule, Leslie, Kidder was Attorney Diane Gorrow.

Pledge

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

Audio

Madam Chair Kosta informed the member and participants of tonight's meeting that the meeting would be audio taped. She also announced it was discovered that the vice-chair election protocol was performed incorrectly. Secret ballots were used when two board members were nominated for a single position. The statutes prohibit the use of secret ballots. Furthermore the statutes supersede the Roberts Rules of Order process that was used at the organizational meeting. The appropriate method would be a voice vote or hand vote of the board in response to two board members nominated for the same office. In an effort to rectify the matter, the board will conduct a revote for the office of vice chair. She then opened the floor for nominations for the vice-chair position.

Nomination: Mr. Mascola nominated Mrs. Aubrey for Timberlane Regional School Board Vice-Chair position effective immediately. Mr. Paone seconded. With no further discussion, the motion carried by hand vote of 6-0.

At 7:45 pm Madam Chair Kosta announced a short recess to review the process and procedures of this evening meeting with legal counsel. The audio system was shut off and any non-essential attendees were asked to wait outside of the board room.

Madam Chair Kosta re-opened the meeting to the public at 8:00 pm and then opened the floor to the student expulsion matter.

Attorney Dianne Gorrow reviewed RSA's 318-B, 193-D, I (j), 193:13 II and 631:4, board policies JKE-, JICH (also ADB, GBEC) and JICD. Board members and the parents of the student were provided all the documentation that was provide to the school board regarding this issue.

Madam Chair Kosta reviewed the rights of the parents and student outlining the process and procedure for this evening's hearing. She inquired if the parents had adequate time to prepare for this hearing. The parents confirmed they received adequate time to prepare. She asked if they wanted legal counsel to present on their behalf during

this hearing. They declined. She then asked the parents if they had any objections to the audio recording of the hearing. They stated they had no objections. They then exercised their right by requesting a non-public session.

With no further discussion, the board was polled and entered into a non-public session with the parents, student, legal counsel, Mr. Kiley, Mr. Woodworth and Mrs. Lovett at 8:05 pm.

At 9:00 pm the parents and student were excused from the meeting.

Motion: Mrs. Aubrey motioned to exit the non-public session, seconded by Mr. Mascola. With no further discussion, the board was polled (7-0) and exited the non-public session at 10:15 pm.

Motion: Mrs. Aubrey motioned to seal the minutes of the non-public session permanently, seconded by Mr. Mascola. With no further discussion the motion carried 7-0.

Elementary Curriculum

Madam Chair Kosta introduced Mrs. Killen, Director of Elementary Education who distributed small blank sheets of paper to each board member and asked that questions be jotted down and asked at the end of her presentation.

Mrs. Killen informed the board that she welcomes the professional discussion on this matter and cautioned against listening to rumor versus the evidence presented this evening. She stated that she had taught seventeen and has observed forty-four classes and is confident that teachers are making great strides with the new curriculum. The curriculum process is discussed in a group setting each week.

She explained the curriculum as it relates to Everyday Math, language arts and social studies. She clarified that students are performing better than the previous two years in science. She noted the social studies curriculum is taught within Reading Street where, for example, grade 3 discusses topics pertaining to New Hampshire.

She noted that the majority of classes have intergraded the reading, writing and social studies curriculum. She reviewed the cycle of training that is highlighted in the racing theme used this year to roll-out, track, and recognize accomplishments as well as train teachers on the curriculum and how each part is intergraded with the other curricula. From the weekly team meetings on the progress, the team gathers data for staff development as well as reviews the roll out process, instruction and tier-two *Response to Instruction* (RTI).

She then reviewed the results of the survey taken by the teachers noting that she was pleasantly surprised with the overall results. She noted that some teachers were able to see the intergraded connection between curriculums whereas other could not. She stated that Professional Learning Communities will focus on helping teachers see the intergraded connection. For example: she and Kristen Pereira will model the teaching methods for all lessons in a class for one entire school day. Teachers will be able to observe the model first hand.

She clarified that units will last 5 weeks in grades 2 through 5 and 6 weeks for grade one. She highlighted one fourth grade classroom where all the students were on an advanced level after completing the 3rd unit.

She then asked for questions from the board. Mr. Collins asked the purpose of the survey to which Mrs. Killen responded the team wanted a clear understanding of the teachers' thoughts and to see if they matched the team's perception.

Mr. Collins then asked who is providing the training and timing of the independent reading schedule. Mrs. Killen noted that the training is not done by one person. The reading time is 90 minutes on core curriculum and 30-40 minutes on independent reading. Mrs. Aubrey asked about the material used for independent reading. Mrs. Killen noted that reading material included Just Right books for elementary schools. She also spoke of how the program worked with middle school students.

Mr. Collins asked how it worked with handwriting and social studies to which Mrs. Killen replied by noting the outline of the curriculum and how it teaches social studies through Reading Street. She noted the social studies curriculum is being re-aligned with the Reading Street curriculum and when completed, it will be released to the teachers. She noted tools are provided to teachers for this task until the social studies curriculum is re-aligned. Mr. Collins expressed his concern that time is provided but no direction or the time to teach is. Mrs. Killen noted that students are learning social studies concepts.

Mrs. Steenson asked to go on the record that she is surprised that staff who are resisting the curriculum are not be

listened to. She would like to have an open discussion with all staff and expressed her concern for social studies curriculum. Mrs. Killen reviewed the survey results again noting that 9 out of 56 teachers believe they are not teaching any social studies. Mrs. Killen stated teachers are not connecting the two curriculum but they are teaching social studies. Mr. Collins asked about testing this year and Mrs. Killen addressed the bench mark tests available. Mrs. Killen confirmed that no testing will be done this year to test students. Mr. La Salle noted the tests and how they should progress. Mr. Collins would like the assessment done this year since it will be the second year of Reading Street before they test for the results of the curriculum. Mrs. Killen clarified that Reading Street is the vehicle which the curriculum is implemented.

Mr. Collins expressed his concern that decisions on curriculum are being made by Mrs. Killen and not being brought to the board for their consideration. Mrs. Killen referred to School Board Policy IGE Curriculum Guides and Course Outlines. Madam Chair Kosta noted that the board approves curriculum but they do not instruct on the implementation of the curriculum.

Mr. La Salle explained that when a curriculum is rolled out it is a process and not a switch that is turn on or off. He noted that the process is moving forward in a positive manner and he is confident it will be a success. He supports what his administrators are completing and is pleased with the progress. He asked for the board's patience.

Mrs. Withee noted that there is a fine line that board member must always consider - they must be careful not to cross it and become micro-managers. Board members should be careful not to bring personal issues to the board table. We must trust our administrators. Mrs. Steenson stated again that she would want to have an open discussion regarding weak points on curriculum. Mr. Paone expressed his disappointment in the process that was taken to address this issue at the board meeting this evening. Mr. Collins stated that he believes the board should have been notified of any changes to curriculum. Mr. La Salle explained that curriculum implementation is the Superintendent's responsibly and not a task of the board.

Mrs. Killen clarified curriculum is set in stone; Reading Street is a tool to teach curriculum. Social studies content standards are the curriculum; we are just changing the timing to align with our tool to teach social studies through Reading Street.

Mr. Collins would like to see how Reading Street aligns with curriculum. Mrs. Killen invited Mr. Collins or any board member to attend the staff training at Atkinson Academy, Pollard and Sandown Central this week.

Director of Secondary Education Interview Committee

Mr. La Salle announced that the search committee for the Director of Secondary Education position is requesting two to three board members sit on the committee. Madam Chair Kosta, Mr. Mascola and Mr. Paone agreed to be part of the committee.

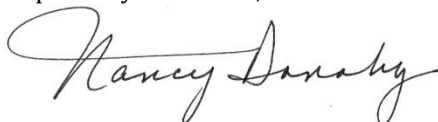
Motion: Mr. Paone motioned to enter into a non-public session regarding a student matter under RSA 91:A.3.II (c), seconded by Mr. Mascola. With no further discussion, the board was polled and entered into a non-public session at 11:53 pm.

Motion: Mrs. Aubrey motioned to exit the non-public session, seconded by Mrs. Withee. With no further discussion, the board was polled (7-0) and exited the non-public session at 12:11 am.

No action was taken during the non-public session.

Having no further business before the board Madam Chair Kosta adjourned the meeting at 12:11 am.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy Danahy
Recording Secretary