

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

Regular Meeting
March 18, 2010
7:46 PM

SAU 55 Office
30 Greenough Road
Plaistow, NH

Call to Order

Madam Chair Kosta called this March 18, 2010 meeting of the Timberlane Regional School Board to order at 7:46 pm. Roll call was taken.

Board Members Present

Lori Aubrey, Robert Collins, Elizabeth Kosta, Michael Mascola, John Paone, Nancy Steenson, Lisa Withee and Student Representative Holly Ange

Board Members not in Attendance

William Baldwin and Louis Porcelli

Administrators Present

Richard La Salle, Superintendent of Schools
George Stokinger, Business Administrator

Pledge

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

Minutes

The board reviewed the public meeting minutes of the March 4, 2010 meeting.

Motion: Mrs. Withee motioned to approve the public meeting minutes of the March 4, 2010 meeting with corrections. Mr. Mascola seconded. With the noted corrections and no further discussion, the motion carried 6-0 with 1 abstention, Nancy Steenson.

Delegations and Individuals

Ms. Holly Ange reported that the spring sport season has begun with tryouts for tennis, volleyball, lacrosse, baseball and softball. She congratulated the Boys' Hockey team which finished 4th in the state. She informed the public that Spirit week was enjoyed by all classes; many people dressed up and got involved in many activities. She recognized the Student Council and all four Executive Committees for making a great week for all. The spring drama *The Glass Menagerie* is now being performed at the PAC and shows will continue through Saturday, March 20th. She reported that Language Night is scheduled for March 31st at 6:30 pm at the PAC and admission is free. Students who speak another language can choose to perform an act including skits or musical numbers to show off their talents.

Current Business

Expulsion Hearing

Mr. La Salle informed the board that the expulsion hearing is to be postponed this evening; the parents requested additional time to prepare. They would like to schedule a meeting on Monday or Tuesday of next week. Mr. La Salle noted that this meeting would be considered a special meeting and would require a quorum or a committee could be designated by the board. Mr. La Salle would like to inform the parents of the scheduled time. Madam Chair Kosta asked the board member if Monday, March 29th, 2010 at 7:30 pm would work for them. She also requested a full board attendance at this meeting. All members agreed. Mr. La Salle thanked the board for their consideration.

He further explained the parents have the option of choosing a public or non-public session for this hearing. Should a public session be chosen the student would not be shown on camera?

The District's Attorney (Diane Gorrow) will be present to advise the board, if needed. An administrator from the high school will also be present to provide necessary information to the board regarding this situation. The board can chose to enter a non-public session or clear the room for a private discussion. They have the option to seal the minutes and return to the non-public or public meeting.

2010-2011 School Calendar

Mr. La Salle presented the third draft of the 2010-2011 school year calendar and reported that Mr. Feneberg met with the Timberlane Teachers Association as well as some parents and students who requested changing the third draft to include Friday, September 3rd as a non-school day. Mr. La Salle noted that changes to the June schedule would include a full day on June 14, with the last day of school as an early release day on June 15th, and extending the make-up days to June 29th if needed.

Mr. Collins requested two early release days: one in November and the other in March. This would give teachers time to schedule conference time with parents since new time cards are projected to be utilized in the new school year and additional time to review the new cards to parents may be needed. Mr. La Salle stated the reports cards will be very similar to the current reports, shorter in length but now standards-based report cards, and that the change would not justify an early release day. Madam Chair Kosta noted that report card changes have not been approved by the curriculum committee nor presented to the school board for approval as required.

Mr. Paone asked to keep Friday, September 3rd as a full school day; he would also like to have the two professional development days in February and April moved from Friday's to any other day during the week. He would not like to extend the scheduled vacation weeks by having the professional development day on the Friday prior to a vacation week. He noted when the early release days were removed from the calendar last year the Para-educators' scheduled professional development time scheduled for those early release days was not re-scheduled. He asked that the board consider a paid professional development day for the Para-educators.

Mrs. Steenson would like to see early release days in November and April to increase the time for teachers and parents to meet, she suggested a survey taken of parents and teacher to find out their opinion regarding this matter. Ms. Ange noted that the first week of school is a scheduled full week; many students would appreciate Friday, September 3rd as a non-school day to ease back into the school scheduled after the summer months. Mr. La Salle explained that typically if a full week is scheduled for the first week of school, the Friday before Labor Day is a poorly attended. Furthermore the TTA is advocating for September 3rd as a non-school day.

Madam Chair Kosta noted that the middle and high schools would not have the same concerns regarding report cards for early release days in November and April. Mr. Collins noted that parents work all different shifts and the early release days would allow more parents to attend the meetings. Mrs. Steenson asked if the teachers were asked their opinion on afternoon conferences and if early release days are good for them to disburse report cards she suggested a survey be taken for teacher and parent's opinion on this matter. . Mr. La Salle reported some teachers prefer afternoon conferences but it is a personal preference. Mrs. Aubrey suggested having early release for teacher conferences for elementary school and professional development for the middle and high schools.

Motion: Mrs. Steenson motioned to approve September 3, 2010 as a non-school day. Mrs. Withee seconded. With no further discussion, the motion carried 6-0 with 1 abstention, John Paone.

Motion: Mr. Collins motioned to approve a scheduled early release day for the fall of 2010. Mrs. Steenson seconded. With no further discussion, the motion failed 3 - 4 (Mrs. Aubrey, Madam Chair Kosta, Mr. Paone and Mrs. Withee opposed).

Motion: Mrs. Withee motioned to approve a paid professional development day for Paraeducators. Mrs. Aubrey seconded.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Collins inquired of the cost to the District to provide a paid professional development day for paraeducators. Mr. La Salle provided a ball park figure of \$85.00 per paraeducator for a full day. Mrs. Aubrey asked if the professional development training provided to the Para-educators would be optional or required. Mr. La Salle clarified it would be an optional benefit. He then clarified the training material by stating the District currently has a person that organizes the professional development for Para-educators, and furthermore, if Para-educators wanted to, they could attend and be welcomed at all the teacher professional development opportunities. **With no further discussion, the motion carried by a unanimous vote (7-0).**

Motion: Mr. Collins motioned to approve a scheduled early release day for March of 2011 to be scheduled at a later date. Mrs. Steenson seconded.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Collins believes the proposed report cards will be quite extensive and it is important to provide additional time for discussion between parents and teachers. Mrs. Withee noted the difference between early release and the end of school is approximately two hours of time. She inquired if two hours is enough time to request dismissing students early. Mr. Collins noted that kindergarten classes have twice as many students as elementary classes.

Mr. Mascola request additional information about the proposed report cards. Mr. La Salle noted that it is a standards-based report card that reflects the student's skill level in specific standards. Madam Chair Kosta explained the procedure for approval of the proposed report card and suggested sending out an example of the report card before the scheduled meetings so parents are informed prior to receiving it.

Mr. La Salle explained the District's support of open communication with parents and the many forms used to encourage the communication between parents and teachers. Mrs. Withee requested feedback from staff on the prior use of early release days for report card conferences and without them. Mr. La Salle has received requests from staff to use the early release days for parent teacher conferences but none from parents. Mrs. Steenson noted the importance of parent/ teacher communication and her support of allowing time for their discussion.

Mr. Collins rescinded his motion and Mrs. Steenson rescinded her second.

Motion: Mr. Paone motioned to approve changing the Professional Development days from Friday to any other weekday. Mr. Mascola seconded.

DISCUSSION: Mrs. Steenson asked if poor attendance by students and staff is recorded in previous years. Mr. La Salle noted that some parents use it as a travel day and he is impressed with the dedication from the staff on these days. Ms. Ange noted that most students are restless on the Friday prior to a holiday and are not as productive as a regular school day. Mr. La Salle noted the education continuity is also a factor.

With no further discussion, the motion failed 1-6 (Mrs. Aubrey, Mr. Collins, Madam Chair Kosta, Mr. Mascola, Mrs. Steenson and Mrs. Withee opposed).

Motion: Mrs. Steenson motioned to approve the 2010-2011 calendar as modified. Mrs. Withee seconded.

Modifications noted:

- September 3, 2010 non-school day
- No early release days
- Last day of school: June 15, 2010

With no further discussion, the motion carried 6 - 1(Mr. Collins opposed).

Motion: Mrs. Withee motioned to approve the 2010 graduation date of June 11, 2010. Mr. Mascola seconded. With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Review of Election Results

Mr. La Salle welcomed Mrs. Steenson to the board and thanked the public for their support of the budget, Timberlane Teachers Association contract and kitchen renovation for Atkinson Academy. He noted the Budget Committee's hard work on preparing the budget and the support for the teachers in approving their contract. He then reviewed all the results of the voting on March 9th.

Elementary Curriculum Discussion

Mr. La Salle reported that Mrs. Killen regrets that she is not able to attend this meeting. Mr. LaSalle informed the board he instructed her to go home this afternoon when it was obvious that she was ill.

He asked if the board would like to re-schedule this topic. Mr. Collins informed the board that he would not be able to attend the next board meeting and would like to be present for the discussion. Madam chair Kosta suggested scheduling the discussion on Monday, March 29th, 2010 when a special meeting is scheduled. The board agreed to add this item to the March 29th agenda.

Committee Assignments

Madam Chair Kosta informed the board members that she would like to review the committee assignments at the April 1st meeting. She asked all the board members to send to her via email their requests for committee assignment.

Mr. La Salle noted that a building committee should be formed for the upcoming facilities projects (high school lab renovation and Atkinson Academy kitchen renovation). This committee should include board members and will encompass both projects. He reminded the board that two, three or four board members can be part of the committee but not five since that would create a quorum. The two projects should have sub-committees one for each project.

School Board Training Options

Mrs. Aubrey reviewed the training options for board members that included inviting the Hampstead School Board.

Madam Chair Kosta asked for a decision on the following options for training; New Hampshire School Board Association (NHSBA) training at their Concord, NH location and /or District in-house training facilitated by veteran board members, superintendent and legal counsel (Attorney Michael Elwell). Mrs. Aubrey suggested offering both options for training. Mr. Collins asked if the NHSBA could come to our location at the SAU No 55 office and provide training. Mr. La Salle noted that the NHSBA would be contacted to see if this choice is available. After a brief discussion the board agreed they would like to be offered NHSBA training and District in-house training. Both will be offered to board members of Hampstead and Timberlane Regional School Districts.

Budget Committee Training

Madam Chair Kosta requested providing training to the Budget committee members and four school board members (to avoid a quorum for board members). Madam Chair Kosta noted that Local Government Center's training for budget and finance is scheduled in September in Bedford and the Manchester area. Mr. Collins inquired of the cost of the training. Mr. Mascola mentioned April would be a good time for training since new budget committee members have been sworn in.

Motion: Mrs. Aubrey motioned to approve training for the budget committee members. Mrs. Withee seconded. With no further discussion, the motion carried with a unanimous vote (6-0) (Mr. Paone was out of the room).

Administrators Report

Mr. La Salle reported the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) reports for the middle and high schools are provided to the board members for their review. He was pleased to inform the board that on March 17th he was at the middle school when the Edies Awards Committee was visiting the middle school, and reported to him what a wonderful day they enjoyed with the students there. He expressed how proud he was of the students and staff at the middle school.

Personnel

Mr. La Salle recommended accepting the resignations of:

- Krista Johnson Atkinson Academy 3rd grade Teacher (5 years with the District)
- Sarah Lea TRHS Mathematics Teacher effective immediately (3 years with the District)
- Rebecca Salois THRS Spanish Teacher (6 years with the District)

Motion: Mrs. Aubrey motioned to accept the resignations of:

- Krista Johnson Atkinson Academy 3rd grade Teacher (5 years with the District)
- Sarah Lea TRHS Mathematics Teacher effective immediately (3 years with the District)
- Rebecca Salois THRS Spanish Teacher (6 years with the District)

Mrs. Withee seconded. With no further discussion, the motion carried by unanimous vote (7-0).

Committee and Reports of the School Board

Mr. Collins attended the Community Relations Committee meeting.

Mr. Mascola enjoyed the Professional Development sessions on March 9th.

Mrs. Aubrey attended the Safety Committee meeting.

Mrs. Withee chaired the Facilities Committee meeting.

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

Correspondence

Madam Chair Kosta reported an email sent by Ms. Laurie Herchenroder, Plaistow resident requesting that photos of all staff accompany their contact information for all schools throughout the district. Mr. La Salle noted that discussions have begun on this subject and if it was decided to pursue this idea, then it would be done in steps.

Vendor and Payroll

Done

Other

Mr. Collins re-affirmed his request for the report from the Merrimack Valley School District regarding the services of the Youth Educational Employment Services (YEES). Mr. La Salle noted that this report has been requested a few times and he will follow up with YEES. His second request is for the Science strand information for the elementary and high school.

Mr. Stokinger reported a vacancy still remains on the Budget committee; the write-in candidate that received the

most votes refused the position.

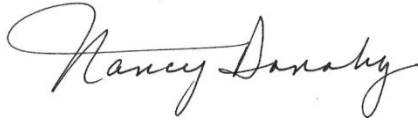
Motion: Mrs. Aubrey motioned to enter into a non-public session regarding a personnel issue under RSA 91:A.3.II (c), seconded by Mrs. Withee. With no further discussion, the board was polled and entered into a non-public session at 9:35 pm.

Motion: Mrs. Aubrey motioned to exit the non-public session, seconded by Mrs. Withee. With no further discussion, the board was polled and exited the non-public session at 10:30 pm.

No action was taken during the non-public session.

Having no further business before the board Madam Chair Kosta adjourned the meeting at 10:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Danahy". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Nancy Danahy
Recording Secretary