

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

Regular Meeting
June 17, 2010
7:30 PM

SAU 55 Office
30 Greenough Road
Plaistow, NH

Call to Order

Madam Chair Kosta called this June 17, 2010 meeting of the Timberlane Regional School Board to order at 7:30 pm. Roll call was taken.

Board Members Present

Lori Aubrey, Robert Collins, Elizabeth Kosta, Michael Mascola, John Paone, Louis Porcelli, Nancy Steenson, Lisa Withee.

Board Members not in attendance

William Baldwin

Administrators Present

Richard La Salle, Superintendent of Schools
George Stokinger, Business Administrator
Kathleen Smith, Assistant Business Administrator
Kelli Killen, Director of Elementary Education
Scott Strainge, Director of Secondary Education
Janet Hart, Curriculum Coordinator for TRMS
Jacqueline Oros, Assistant Principal TRMS
Janet Gustavson, Curriculum Coordinator for Humanities, TRMS

Pledge

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

Minutes

The board reviewed the public and non-public minutes of the May 20, 2010 meeting.

Motion: Mrs. Withee motioned to approve the public and non-public meeting minutes of the May 20, 2010 meeting as written. Mrs. Aubrey seconded. With no further discussion, the motion carried by a vote of 7-0-1 (1 member abstained).

Delegations and Individuals

Ms. Holly Ange thanked the board and the public for their support during her time as the student representative to the school board. She felt the board welcomed the student input she conveyed and always acted with student's best interest.

Nick Delfino, Community Agent reported the Student Council accomplished many tasks over the last four weeks including donating children's books to schools and libraries in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Some other activities included Homecoming, and assisting the PTSA by guiding the welcome wagon tours for the incoming freshman. The activities will be winding down as the school year comes to an end.

Current Business

Student Representative

The board welcomed Connor Briggs as the newly voted Student Representative to the School Board. He thanked the board and wished Holly Ange well on her future endeavors.

TRMS Montreal Trip

Mademoiselle Lacourse, TRMS French Teacher and Mrs. Oros, TRMS Assistant Principal were pleased to report on the educational trip to Montreal for 70 students. The trip provided an opportunity for students to practice what they have learned and understand the currency and how to use it effectively. They ordered from restaurants in French and were praised for their manners. They attended tourist attractions and enjoyed the history and environment of Montreal. The trip was a success and accomplished all the educational goals. The student survey's confirmed the success of the trip. Mademoiselle Lacourse and Oros thanked the board for their support.

Destination Imagination

The Destination Imagination (DI) team reviewed their recent trip to the National competition in Tennessee. The students presented a performance, found a solution to a complex problem regarding environment pollution. They designed and built a robot to flip buckets and drop marbles into a container. The TRSD team connected with a team from South Korea and they were able to communicate first with music and then with words. They exchanged gifts and memories for a lifetime. The team

thanked the school board for their continued support.

Curriculum

Mrs. Killen presented the first reading on the middle school language arts and math curriculum. Mrs. Strafford, Guidance Counselor for Sandown North reviewed the writing standards, skills, teacher focus and the efforts to dispel myths and misconceptions. Mrs. Georgian, Principal of Sandown North School outlined the state standards, study material and the design of unit contents. Mr. Strange explained the most important and logical standards that curriculum is always a work in progress.

Mr. Collins asked for an update of the curriculum that was approved in the previous school year. Mr. Strange explained that the curriculum process is not a check off item list but a constant conversation and constructive process. Mr. Collins stated he understood the process and wanted an updated report on the curriculum. Mrs. Killen confirmed the Language Arts programs are in place. The Science curriculum documents are now aligned with Everyday Math and are in place. She continued that the Social Studies will be implemented this year, and the finishing touches will be completed this summer.

Mr. Collins asked if the curriculum is fully implemented in the elementary schools. Mr. Killen confirmed that the curriculum is fully implemented in the elementary schools.

Janet Hart, Curriculum Coordinator for the TRMS noted that professional conversations will continue to improve the understanding of the skills needed to teach and improve for curricula; how they apply to the subject matter and if they can be transferred to another subject. Mrs. Hart then reviewed the process it takes for teachers to learn to teach the changed curriculum from the pilot program, the adoption of the curricula and that it takes a average two-year implementation period. She noted it is not a process that happens overnight as it is an ongoing process. Madam Chair Kosta thanked the team for their hard work and support.

Mrs. Killen reported the elementary enrichment documentation is in process and she is looking forward to the final product. Teachers have been working for the past year, two to three hours monthly on this. The program is designed to focus on the academics of mathematics and reading; arts will be added at a later time. She reported Response to Instruction (RTI) is a program for all students. The program is for students that require additional help and/or assistance as well as those of superior intelligence. Enrichment teachers coach students at different ends of the scale addressing each individual student's needs.

She then reviewed the three tiers of the RTI program including the identification of students and the length of the session to assist the student. She clarified the individual learning plan process that is currently being implemented.

Mr. Porcelli asked if the program aligned with the state framework and provided room for teacher creativity. Mr. Strange noted the program goals are set but teachers are able to create their own method to achieve these goals. Mrs. Steenson inquired if curriculum is what *is* taught and Reading Street is the *how* it is taught? Mrs. Killen explained that Reading Street is the common text but teachers make their professional decisions on how it is taught. The teachers see how it all connects and they decide how to accomplish the goals. Mr. Strange noted that with classrooms of students different groups mean different needs and the teachers adjust to the classroom needs to accomplish the implementation.

Mrs. Killen was pleased to update the board on the handwriting curriculum, she noted the groups are productive as they have a purpose and communicate the information effectively. The group designed a program to teach handwriting for each developmental physical stage of the students from age 4 to 5th grade. They note the important current and future needs and then work on the materials used to teach. She then reviewed the next steps in the process. Mr. Strange highlighted the curriculum groups at the high and middle schools schedule for the next few weeks.

Mr. Collins queried Mrs. Killen regarding handwriting in the classrooms she clarified she is hoping we will have a fully implemented handwriting curriculum in the 2011-2012 school year. Mr. Collins expressed his desire for better survey results next year, Mrs. Killen agreed and she stated she is confident the board will be pleased to discover the integration of the curriculum and teaching methods.

Motion: Mrs. Aubrey motioned to approve the first reading of middle school Language Arts and Math and the elementary Enrichment and Growth & Development curricula. Mr. Mascola seconded. With no further discussion, the motion carried by a unanimous vote of 8-0.

Early Release Discussion

Mr. Collins expressed his desire to discuss the survey results of the early release days.

Motion: Mr. Collins motioned to approve the addition of an early release day in November to be decided by the administration at a later date. Mr. Mascola seconded. MOTION IS RESCINDED

Mr. Paone stated that the calendar for the 2010-2011 school year was officially voted on by the board and the vote would need to be rescinded. He then requested the expertise of a legal opinion.

Mr. La Salle suggested that the will of board is what he would expect the legal advice would be and he suggested the discussion continue.

Mrs. Steenson recalled the unanimous approval of the calendar with the caveat to consider an early release day. Mrs. Withee expressed her concern for the many days off already scheduled in November. Mrs. Aubrey asked if the consideration is for the elementary schools only and asked for Mrs. Killen's opinion. Mrs. Killen noted that everyone was able to accomplish their conferences in a timely manner except for kindergarten since they have twice the number of students and two sessions are scheduled each school day. She posed can teachers use the extra time? And responded, "yes." Can they do without the extra time? Again she replied, "yes." Mr. Porcelli asked how much instructional time would be lost either way. Mrs. Killen noted for kindergarten it would be one day and for elementary students it would be 2 ½ hours.

Mrs. Killen confirmed that report card changes are for the elementary school only. Mr. Collins stated that more conference time could be used by middle and high school parents. He inquired about the teachers' contractual obligations when a parent requests a meeting after school hours. Mr. La Salle replied fifteen minutes before or after school, three evenings per year including open house.

Mr. Collins stated he considers teachers are generous with their time but he is concerned since they are not obligated. Mrs. Killen confirmed the teachers' contractual responsibility includes the fall evening parent conferences. Mrs. Aubrey acknowledged that in her home an early release day is a concern due to the loss of instructional time.

Mrs. Steenson stated her concern that this board would find any reason not to decide on an early release day. Mr. Paone affirmed that this subject matter has been brought up discussed and has been accepted; thus it should be considered a decision made and supported by the board. The discussion continued regarding the legal opinions surrounding a change to the 2010-2011 school year calendar. Mr. Collins stated the survey supported an early release day.

Mr. La Salle clarified the board may amend the main motion by a 2/3 vote or 100% majority.

Mr. Mascola suggested obtaining feed back after November's conferences in the upcoming school year. Mrs. Steenson declared that despite the loss of 2 ½ hours of instructional time she feels strongly that the teachers voiced their opinion and that this board should support them and increase their communication time to parents. Mrs. Withee asked if a small population of elementary teachers should decide an early release day is appropriate for the entire district. Mr. Paone stated he would like a clear decision from all teachers for requesting an early release day. He stated that great education and raising the bar may mean no early release days. Students accomplish less and have less instructional time on shorter days. He believes students should have 180 days of instructional time.

Mr. Collins declared that half of the conference schedule fills quickly for teachers and more emphasis should be placed on the parent conference at the middle and high schools.

Motion is re-stated

Motion: Mr. Collins motioned to amend the previously adopted 2010-2011 school year calendar to include an early release day in November. Mrs. Steenson seconded. With no further discussion, the motion failed by vote of two in favor and six opposed.

Food Service Contract/Financials

Mr. Stokinger reported on the TRSD 2009-2010 budget status which has a reported favorable surplus of \$1,701,604. He noted the estimated revenue for the 2010-2011 budget at \$900,000. He clarified the major variances noting that Special Education tuition and transportation as well as the Y.E.S.S. program ran over but a savings was realized in utilities, benefits and salaries and other expenses bring the surplus to \$1,282,600. The Medicaid revenue of \$419,004 would bring the total of major variances to a favorable \$1,701,604.

Mr. La Salle noted letters regarding the food service accounts were sent from the middle school. When there is a negative balance on a student's food service account letters explaining the balance are sent home. Some parents responded negatively believing their child would be turned down for a lunch.

He noted a miscommunication occurred where Mr. Hogan wanted the students to be able to charge their lunch to his personal account. Mr. Hogan promptly corrected the situation since his intention was to ensure no student would go without a lunch.

Mr. La Salle explained that these letter are a part of the process when a student's lunch accounts go into a negative balance: we do not want students to go without lunch. Mrs. Aubrey thanked Mrs. Kathleen Smith for her time and efforts when working with the food service program. She has done a great job and her efforts are appreciated.

Policies

Mr. La Salle presented for the board's review eight policies for a first reading consideration:

- JCA Change of School Assignment
- JEBA *Eliminate this policy at the recommendation of legal counsel*

JEC	Manifest Educational Hardship
EB	Safety Program
EHB	Data/Records Retention
IL	Evaluation of Instructional Programs
IJ	Instructional Materials
IK	Earning of Credit

Motion: Mrs. Aubrey motioned to approve the first reading of the policies JCA-Change of School Assignment, JEB-*Eliminate this policy at the recommendation of legal counsel*, JEC-Manifest Educational Hardship, EB-Safety Program, EHB-Data/Records Retention, IL-Evaluation of Instructional Programs, IJ-Instructional Materials and IK-Earning of Credit. Mrs. Withee seconded. With no further discussion, the motion carried by a unanimous vote of 8-0.

Administrators Report

Mr. La Salle recommended nominating Lorna Walker as Timberlane School District Clerk.

Motion: Mr. Mascola motioned to accept the nomination of Lorna Walker as Timberlane School District Clerk. Mrs. Withee seconded. With no further discussion, the motion carried by a unanimous vote of 8-0.

Mr. La Salle asked the board to consider waiving policy to allow a staff member's child to attend school within the district at a reduced rate. He clarified this issue is with the sending district that has refused to sign the tuition agreement due to the New Hampshire Legislature which is scheduled to address the legal concerns of the sending district.

Motion: Mr. Porcelli motioned to waive policy at this time and to request a letter from the sending district of a staff member's child. Mrs. Withee seconded.

Mr. Collins inquired why the sending district would not sign the requested form. Mr. La Salle if the form was signed by the sending district the question before the legislature is whom would assume the additional costs of the student's education if additional cost were incurred.

With no further discussion, the motion carried by a unanimous vote of 8-0.

Mr. Collins asked for NECAP results by school, Mrs. Killen noted the information is being formatted by school and should be completed by Monday June 21, 2010. Mr. Collins was concerned since the results have been out since March. Mr. La Salle confirmed the results were presented previously but Administration preferred not to show the results by school as summary report was provided. Mr. Collins state he finds this unacceptable not to see NECAP results with numbers. Mr. La Salle pointed out that this information could have been requested by Mr. Collins at any time and it is unfair to state at this time it is unacceptable. Mr. Collins stated he was not aware of AYP results. Mr. La Salle clarified that the conversation regarding the results were provided at a public board meeting that Mr. Collins was not in attendance but he would be glad to answer any questions from Mr. Collins. Mrs. Steenson stated she would like a presentation so questions could be asked and not asked to refer to the data.

Mrs. Aubrey expressed her concern of the tone of the meeting; she found it troubling and not in the best interest of students. She would like to see this board work together as a team. Mr. Paone uttered the same sentiment and finds Mr. Collins' banter and tone offensive this evening. He continued that Mr. Collins' discussions seem to intentionally publically humiliate the administration. Mrs. Withee inquired from Mr. Collins if he has a specific concern or whether he was looking for specific information? Mr. Collins stated he would like to look at schools assessment, then discuss the results and ask questions. Mrs. Withee suggested since the NECAP tests are in October with the results arriving in March of the next year that Mr. Collins request specifically the results be presented by school. Mrs. Killen clarified that the NECAP results presentation is designed to teach how the information is formatted, to understand the data and develop questions. She noted that the results were received one day before the presentation and she assumed the board would take the opportunity to review the results and develop questions. The problem is that the results show only a snap shot in time. Mr. Strainge took umbrage with the insinuation that this administration is withholding information. He continued to say that the data is there for anyone's review. Madam chair Kosta stopped the conversation stating it was going in circles. She stated it is only Mr. Collins' opinion of how and when the data should be presented. She clarified that Mrs. Killen has provided the information. Mr. Collins was able to review the data and develop questions at any time. Mrs. Steenson stated perhaps the board should be hungry for data and make it a priority; she suggested holding a workshop and discuss the information. Madam chair Kosta agreed.

Personnel

Mr. La Salle recommended accepting the resignation of the following professional;

Arlene Amendolara	Atkinson Academy Reading Specialist (15 years with the district)
Jennifer Bodenrader	TRMS Nurse (2 years with the district)

Motion: Mrs. Withee motioned to accepting the resignations of Arlene Amendolara and Jennifer Bodenrader. Mrs. Aubrey seconded. With no further discussion, the motion carried by a unanimous vote of 8-0.

Mr. La Salle recommended the nominations of;

Kathryn DePalo	Atkinson Academy Music Teacher
Melissa DeBenedetto	Sandown North, Second Grade Teacher

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Beth Hemingway	TRHS Guidance Counselor
Christian Lizier	TRMS, Physical Education and Health Teacher
Jennifer Rebane	TRMS, Mathematics Teacher
Jennie Roy	TRMS, Sixth Grade Science Teacher
Jacqueline Sanford	Atkinson Academy Kindergarten Teacher
Anna Tantaro	TRHS, Special Education
Aaron Ward	TRMS, Sixth Grade Bridges

Motion: Mrs. Withee motioned to accepting the nomination of;

Kathryn DePalo	Atkinson Academy, Music Teacher
Melissa DeBenedetto	Sandown North, Second Grade Teacher
Beth Hemingway	TRHS, Guidance Counselor
Christian Lizier	TRMS, Physical Education and Health Teacher
Jennifer Rebane	TRMS, Mathematics Teacher
Jennie Roy	TRMS, Sixth Grade Science Teacher
Jacqueline Sanford	Atkinson Academy, Kindergarten Teacher
Anna Tantaro	TRHS, Special Education
Aaron Ward	TRMS, Sixth Grade Bridges

Mrs. Aubrey seconded. With no further discussion, the motion carried by a unanimous vote of 8-0.

Mr. La Salle recommended the re-nominations of Jennifer Clark, TRHS English Teacher

Motion: Mrs. Aubrey motioned to accepting the re-nomination of Jennifer Clark. Mrs. Steenson seconded. With no further discussion, the motion carried by a unanimous vote of 8-0.

Mr. La Salle recommended the nomination of;

Allison Astarita	Pollard TLC Speech Language Pathologist
Laura-Ann Byers	TRHS School Nurse
Christine Cina	Pollard Speech Language Pathologist (93%)
Megan Histen	Pollard TLC Occupational Therapist

Motion: Mrs. Withee motioned to accepting the nomination of

Allison Astarita	Pollard TLC Speech Language Pathologist
Laura-Ann Byers	TRHS School Nurse
Christine Cina	Pollard Speech Language Pathologist (93%)
Megan Histen	Pollard TLC Occupational Therapist

Mrs. Steenson seconded. With no further discussion, the motion carried by a unanimous vote of 8-0.

Committee and Reports of the School Board

Mr. Mascola reported he attended the policy meeting and the next one is scheduled in August. Mr. Collins attended the budget committee meeting which discussed facilities. The committee asked to have the regular and work session televised.

Motion: Mr. Collins motioned to approve the televised budget committee work session. Mr. Mascola seconded.

Mrs. Withee stated she assumed the work sessions to be a relaxed atmosphere. Madam chair Kosta noted that the public is always welcome at the meetings and work sessions and that minutes are always taken to document the meeting. Mrs. Aubrey noted that the conversations in a work session are to work through an issue; it is not a forum to present the solution.

With no further discussion, the motion failed by a unanimous vote of 0-8.

Correspondence

None

Vendor and Payroll

Done

Other

Mr. Collins asked Mrs. Killen if kindergarten students will be using Reading Street in the upcoming school year. Mrs. Killen noted the teachers were trained in May with additional training planned in August; it is expected to be ready for the first day of the 2010-2011 school year.

Motion: Mr. Collins motioned to enter into a non-public session regarding a personnel matter under RSA 91:A.3.II (c), Mrs. Aubrey seconded. With no further discussion, the board was polled and entered into a non-public session at 10:50 pm.

Motion: Mrs. Aubrey motioned to exit the non-public session, Mrs. Withee seconded. With no further discussion, the board was polled and exited into a non-public session at 11:10 pm.

No Action was taken during the non-public session.

Motion: Mr. Collins motioned to seal the minutes of the September 17th, 2009 non-public session until June 30, 2011. Mrs.

Withee seconded. With no further discussion, the motion carried by a unanimous vote of 8-0.

Having no further business before the board Madam Chair Kosta adjourned the meeting at 11:15 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 typed name.

Nancy Danahy
School Board Clerk