

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

Regular Meeting
September 20, 2012
7:30 PM

SAU 55 Office
30 Greenough Road
Plaistow, NH

Call to Order

Chairman Collins called this September 20, 2012 meeting of the Timberlane Regional School Board to order at 7:30 PM. Roll call was taken.

Board Members Present

Mrs. Aubrey, Mr. Barczak, Mr. Bealo, Mr. Collins, Mrs. Delfino, Mrs. Kosta, Mr. Mascola, Mrs. Steenson and Mrs. Withee

Administrators Present

Dr. Metzler, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Strange, Director of Secondary Education
Mrs. Killen, Director of Elementary Education
Mr. Hogan, Principal of TRMS
Mr. Woodworth, Principal TRHS
Mrs. Di Nola, Assistant Principal of TRHS

Pledge

Chairman Collins led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

The board reviewed and approved by general consent the of September 6th and June 21, 2012 public and non-public meeting of the Timberlane Regional School Board.

Delegations and Individuals

Chairman Collins welcomed Elizabeth "Bitsy" Skerry who is currently in her junior year of high school at the Timberlane Regional High School (TRHS). She presented information regarding her "Right to BARE Arms" campaign which included an online and public petition signed by 272 students. The petition supported a change to the new dress code by allowing students to wear sleeveless attire including shirts, tops and dresses that covers the bra strap.

Ms. Skerry outlined her first day of the 2012-2013 school year in which she was cited by school principal for violating the new dress code. She explained she was wearing a cap sleeve top but her backpack had caused the sleeve to rise up onto her shoulder. A discussion continued and included an outline of a meeting later in the week whereas she felt pressure to reveal the author of an article relating to this topic posted on her internet social media account. Ms. Skerry provided a copy of her presentation and petitions for the permanent school board record. Ms. Meagan O'Neil currently in her sophomore year at TRHS expressed her support of Ms. Skerry.

CURRENT BUSINESS

Standard Based Pilot Update

Mr. Hogan, Principal of the middle school reported on the start of the school year in regarding

to the standards-based pilot. He reviewed the communications sent to the homes of students which is a synopsis of the best practices of the program. He is looking to reconvene the committee in October to review the first quarter of the program.

Dr. Metzler voiced his support of the standards based assessment. He believes the current grading model provides an informative communication and looks forward to feedback from the students and parents.

Dr. Farah whose 7th grade child attends the middle school expressed her concern that the program was not assessed on a portion of the population before it was rolled out to all students. She did not receive the data from the survey taken during the 2011-2012 school year and would like to see another survey done. Some of her concerns included no overall cumulative grades, and the gap created since there is no score set for 2.0 and less. She is concerned parents will not understand their child's actual score. Dr. Metzler asked if she would send her list of concerns directly to him. Mr. Hogan responded by noting that any score below a 2.0 will appear as "Not Yet Mastered" and the parents would be able to refer to the learning goals to understand what is not mastered. He also noted that any concerned parent is encouraged to contact their child's teacher directly.

Mrs. Springer also reported some of the same issues as Dr. Farah and would like to see a stronger parent-committee involvement as well as formalized advertisement of the program. She has lingering concerns that all students will strive to only reach mastery and not try for exemplary. She would like to see students continue to try to improve even when they master a standard or goal. Mr. Springer expressed his concerns that a select group of parents are involved and feels it is restrictive. He would like more parent and student input. Mr. Hogan noted the committee's current members are informed and involved parents who are up to date on the issue and have been working as a team for some time.

The board then expressed their concern for elementary students going into middle school and middle school students as they embark on high school. Will the assessment and grading be standardized? Scott responded that four point rubrics are used for all courses and students are comfortable with this process that has been in place for six years. It is based on competencies. Mrs. Killen noted that elementary does not use letter grades but are using standards based and will be looking closer at that as Common Core goes into effective.

Dr. Metzler noted that we are miles in front of the common core goals and he is pleased with where we are with the assessment.

Chairman Collins asked if the agenda could be changed so item 6c (Memorandum of Understanding) could be heard next before 6b Common Core Standards, with no objections from the board Memorandum of Understanding was presented.

Memorandum of Understanding

Lt. William Baldwin of the Plaistow Police Department reported he had met and reviewed the current changes proposed to the Memorandum of Understanding between The Timberlane Regional School District, their school board and the Plaistow Police Department with the administration of the SAU office. He highlighted the changes presented in sections 4 and 5.

The change of removing the words “first or second degree” and “requiring medical treatment beyond basic first aid or requiring outside medical follow up” was discussed by the board in length.

Motion: Mr. Mascola motioned to approve the memorandum of Understanding with changes proposed. Mrs. Steenson seconded. The board continued to discuss the matters of reporting and assaults. With no further discussion the motion fail by a vote of 2-7-0 (Mr. Mascola and Mrs. Steenson voted in favor).

Lt Baldwin suggested it would be important to have all district towns secure a Memorandum of Understanding with the district.

Motion: Mrs. Kosta motioned to approve the memorandum of Understanding with changes proposed and the removal of additional wording in section 4A-1.j . Mrs. Delfino seconded.

Mrs. Kosta motioned and Mrs. Delfino seconded their motion to amend the motion on the floor to include an update to the title to read “Between Timberlane Regional School District and Plaistow Police Department.” With no further discussion the motion to amend passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0-0.

Chairman Collins then called for a vote on the amended motion. With no further discussion the amended motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0-0.

Common Core

Mrs. Killen provided an informational report on the Common Core standards and how they align with our current curriculum as well as the misalignment of EverydayMath. She outlined the evaluation process for the proposed math pilot programs. All the data will be collected and reviewed, then presented to the curriculum and assessment committee and then to the board. Chairman Collins suggested requesting ten packets of 2012 EverydayMath for a smaller group to provide equal footing for the evaluation. Mrs. Killen reviewed a timeline of the Math implementation process.

Chairman Collins inquired about the timing of NEAWA testing results as well requested a report be provided to the board.

TEDx Donations

Mr. Strainge informed the board that on October 6, 2012 TRSD will be hosting TEDxTimberlaneSchools. He noted this is an independent TED event supported and organized by community members, staff and administrators from the district whom he thanked for their support. He then presented a list of several donations from the community sponsors for the board’s approval.

Motion: Mrs. Kosta motioned to approve allowing the Superintendent to accept donations for the TEDx event of October 6, 2012. Mrs. Withee seconded. With no further discussion the motion passed by unanimous vote of 9-0-0.

New Hampshire Scholars Program

Mr. Strainge presented an overview of the NH scholars program and requested the board’s

approval for 2013 seniors be eligible for the program.

Motion: Mr. Bealo motioned to approve the NH Scholars Program from this date forward as well allow 2013 seniors be eligible for the program. Mrs. Kosta seconded. With no further discussion the motion passed by unanimous vote of 9-0-0.

School Board Goals

Chairman Collins presented the school board goals for the board to review. He noted a motion would be needed for approval.

Motion: Mrs. Delfino motioned to approve the 2012-2013 School Board goals as written. Mrs. Steenson seconded. With no further discussion the motion passed by a vote of 5-4-0. (Mrs. Aubrey, Mr. Barczak, Mrs. Kosta, and Mrs. Withee opposed.)

Mrs. Aubrey noted that since this is a living document she does not support adding 4.5 and 4.5 at this time. Mrs. Steenson noted that the goals should not be a procedure or policy. Mrs. Aubrey asked Dr. Metzler's his opinion whereas he asked for some latitude to run the district. He would like to see the goals help the school district. By accepting this position he has accepted all the responsibilities of the Superintendent; he does not believe that 4.4 and 4.5 are necessary at this time. He will respect the goals put in place.

Motion to reconsider: Mr. Bealo motioned to reconsider the approval of the 2012-2013 School Board goals. Mrs. Delfino seconded. With no further discussion the motion passed by a vote of 9-0-0.

Motion: Mrs. Aubrey motioned to approve the goals as with the removal of 4.4 and 4.5." Mrs. Kosta seconded.

Motion: Mrs. Delfino motioned to amend the motion on the floor to include approval of the creation of a Citizens Committee to address 2.3 of the 2012-2013 School Board goals. Mrs. Kosta seconded.

The board discussed their concerns and ideas regarding the decision of organizing a Citizens Committee. They discussed the timing and logistics of the committee as well as the need at this time.

Mrs. Delfino withdrew her motion, Mrs. Kosta her second, with the unanimous support of the board.

Chairman Collins called for a vote on the motion to approve the goals as amended. With no further discussion the motion passed by a vote of 9-0-0.

School Board Minutes

Chairman Collins reported his conversation with Attorney Elwell regarding the minute's format. He noted that a brief outline of the discussion and a reference to the minutes timing of each topic as it is presented should be noted as well as a clear recording of the motions.

Motion: Mrs. Steenson motioned to approve the revised minute's format to include minutes timing of each topic. Mr. Mascola seconded. Chairman Collins asked to start this format at the next meeting and a copy of the draft be sent to Atty. Elwell for his consideration. With no

further discussion the motion passed by unanimous vote of 8-1-0 (Mr. Barczak opposed).

School Board Venue

Mr. Bealo, on behalf of the Community Relations Committee, requested the board hold public School Board meetings at schools in the four towns of Atkinson, Danville, Plaistow and Sandown.

Mr. Dean Zanello noted problems that may be an issue: filing, local turnout, preparation of the site. He noted he can record but it would not be broadcast live. The sound value could be an issue. Chairman Collins suggested the purchase of a portal unit for PowerPoint presentations.

The board expressed some concern related to advertising so residents are aware of where the meetings will be held, non-public sessions and lightly tailored agendas. The discussion continued.

Motion: Mr. Bealo motioned to waive policy BEA and approve holding specific School Board meetings at schools throughout the towns of the district. Mrs. Delfino seconded. With no further discussion the motion passed by a vote of 7-2-0 (Mr. Mascola and Mrs. Kosta opposed).

Administrators Report

Dr. Metzler reported the need for an on-line college level math course for a current student. He presented all the details and asked for the board approval of the course at a cost of \$690.

Motion: Mrs. Kosta motioned to approve the online college level course at a cost of up to \$690.00. Mr. Mascola seconded. With no further discussion the motion passed by a vote of 9-0-0.

Dr. Metzler then recapped his first weeks in the district by reporting a bus accident on September 7th where a motorcycle hit one of the school buses. He was amazed at the team approach at Timberlane whereby staff came from all schools to assist.

He is impressed with the facilities and believes Mr. Hughes provides a clean and positive learning and work environment.

He recapped the Beede Superfund Group discussion and noted the traffic pattern changes and how they are addressing our safety concerns.

He attended a powerful presentation at the Pollard school and is expected to attend the yard sale on 9/29. He noted his visits to all the schools throughout the district as well as events including but not limited to fall sports, after school clubs, 5k road race, open house, Plaistow Fish and Game, Freshman Academy, Art show on October 1st and upcoming school dances.

Committee and Reports of the School Board

Mrs. Withee attended the Facilities Committee meeting and the facilities tours throughout the district as did Mrs. Aubrey, Mr. Barczak, Mr. Collins and Mrs. Delfino. Mr. Mascola, Mrs. Kosta and Mr. Bealo attended the Policy Committee meeting. Ms. Delfino and Mrs. Kosta attended the Curriculum and Assessment Committee meetings. Mrs. Aubrey also attended the Safety Committee meeting.

Correspondence

None

Vendor and Payroll Check Registers

Done

Other

Motion: Mrs. Kosta motioned to enter into a non-public session at 9:40 PM under RSA 91-A:3,II (c) matters of which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person; seconded by Mr. Mascola. The board was polled:

- **Aubrey – yes**
- **Barczak – yes**
- **Bealo - yes**
- **Collins – yes**
- **Delfino – yes**
- **Kosta – yes**
- **Mascola - yes**
- **Stenson – yes**
- **Withee – yes**

Motion: Mrs. Kosta motioned to exit into nonpublic session; seconded by Mr. Mascola. The board was polled:

- **Aubrey – yes**
- **Barczak – yes**
- **Bealo - yes**
- **Collins – yes**
- **Delfino – yes**
- **Kosta – yes**
- **Mascola - yes**
- **Stenson – yes**
- **Withee – yes**

The board exited non-public session at 11:30 PM. No action was taken in nonpublic session.

Having no further business before the board Chairman Collins adjourned the meeting at 11:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Nancy Danahy
School Board Clerk*