

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

Regular Meeting
June 21, 2012
7:30 PM

SAU 55 Office
30 Greenough Road
Plaistow, NH

Call to Order

Chairman Collins called this June 21, 2012 meeting of the Timberlane Regional School Board to order at 8:05 PM. Roll call was taken.

Board Members Present

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

Not in Attendance

Mrs. Kosta

Administrators Present

Richard La Salle, Superintendent of Schools
Winfried Feneberg, Assistant Superintendent
George Stokinger, Business Administrator
Scott Strainge, Director of Secondary Education
John Holland, Director of Technology
Michael Hogan, Principal of TRMS
Carol Mrowka, Assistant Principal TRMS
Donald Woodworth, Principal of TRHS
JoAnne Georgian, Principal of Sandown North

Pledge

Superintendent of Schools Mr. La Salle led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

The board reviewed and approved by general consent the minutes of the June 7, 2012 public and non-public sessions of the Timberlane Regional School Board.

Delegations and Individuals

Chairman Collins introduced Brett Paley, student representative for the 2012-2013 school year. Chairman Collins welcomed Ms. Ava Russell who reported on her efforts to collect signatures at the middle school for a petition she presented in March. After the petition was stopped by administration she was able to resume her efforts in June and reported the final figures to the board.

CURRENT BUSINESS

Danville Elementary Preschool

Mr. La Salle requested the board's approval change the status of Danville Elementary School from K-5 elementary school to a PK-5 elementary school.

Motion: Mrs. Delfino motioned to approve the change of status of Denville elementary School to a PK-5 elementary school. Mrs. Withee seconded. With no further discussion the motion carried with a unanimous vote 8-0-0.

Technology Plan

Mr. Holland was seeking the Board's approval of the three year technology plan presented at the June 7th meeting of the Timberlane Regional School Board (TRSB). Mr. Holland then addressed a few questions regarding the current technology system.

Mrs. Aubrey motioned to approve the three year Technology plan as presented. Mrs. Steenson seconded. With no further discussion the motion carried with a unanimous vote 8-0-0.

Middle School Assessment

Mr. Hogan and Mrs. Mrowka updated the board and the public on the standard based grading at the middle school. Mr. Hogan reported the progress of the committee of parents, teachers and students that reviewed all the data and continue to work to find a solution for reporting student progress as it applies to standard based grading that would be an acceptable informative method for parents, students and staff. He complimented everyone on the committee who worked hard to create a method of reporting that would be satisfactory method for all concerned.

Parent committee members and teachers outlined their thoughts including

Mrs. Lisi

- The rubrics need to be applied consistently for all students
- The honors program should to be outlined with specifics and communicated to parents
- There is a need for a pilot program before the decision is made to switch in the following areas
 - report cards
 - standard based grading
- Assessments should be used for the NECAP testing whereas it would be another means of assessment

Mrs. Farrah

- Two issues
 - Switch to standard based grading
 - Move away from letter grading
- Additional changes she believes need to be made before the switch is made
- Test sample 10 to 30 students
- Let the committee review the results and make adjustments
- Results of the survey need to be analyzed
 - Currently 30% of parents are not on board with standard based testing

Mrs. Springer

- Committee work has been progressive and would like to see it continue
- A best practices manual for standard based grading is in the works
- More consistency with practices by teachers
- Parents and teachers continue to work together
- Proposed a parent advisory group to raise issues
- Parents do like to see student's project work and currently they cannot until a grade is received. Parents use the review of work to check progress.
- More testing needs to be done before implementation
- Would like to see a trail of 30 students

Public comments

- One gentleman stated his opinion that 100 point scale is best
- He believed this was a pilot program proposed to the school board
- Questioned why the program was administrated across all middle school students
- Believes the administration does not have a method to address problems
- Did not like the survey method

- He asked the school board not to proceed on current path without a clear plan
- The pilot of a program is designed to fine its weakness and make changes
- Parents see letters but no numbers with the proposed program and parents would like to see the breakdown
- Another stated he would like to stay with traditional grading using the grade point average method.

Mr. Russell

- Would like to see the survey information from parents
- Current method creates a bad feeling with parents
- Cautioned the board about not soliciting more parental involvement

Mr. Hogan stressed the importance of rubrics, best practices developed by the committee, age appropriate development as well understanding the value of knowing where improvement is needed and when mastery of a standard has been accomplished.

He communicated his understanding that it is difficult to give up something that is familiar and comfortable but he is trying to advance the learning and assessment of students. He explained the benefits of understanding a student's knowledge depth. Mr. Strange noted the Freshman Academy will be working with the middle school staff to encourage consistency between the middle and high schools. Mr. Hogan outlined his plan for the upcoming school year which included surveying and working with parents, informational meetings, best practice communication with parents and more. He encourages all parents to email teachers directly and would welcome all of them to engage in open constructive dialog.

The board and the public engaged in a discussion regarding moving forward with the proposed student assessment methods.

Motion: Mr. Barczak motioned to accept the student assessment model at the middle school as presented. Mr. Mascola seconded.

Mr. Barczak and Mrs. Steenson noted the search for a new Superintendent and how that might affect the assessment model. Mrs. Aubrey expressed her support of continuing the program thereby allowing the work to continue and learn from the process.

Motion to amend the Motion on the floor: Mrs. Aubrey motioned to amend the motion on the floor by adding that the student assessment model is a one year pilot program for the 2012-2013 school year. Mrs. Delfino seconded.

Mrs. Steenson would like to see guidelines researched and developed as well have a report during the year to assess the pilot program. Mr. La Salle noted that everyone involved in this program has put their best efforts and acknowledge the need to improve. They will continue to provide feedback and report back to the board. Chairman Collins noted that no data had been provided during the current school year and asked to be kept informed during the upcoming school year. Mr. Mascola called the question on the floor.

With no further discussion the first motion to amend the motion on the floor carried with a vote 6-2-0. (Mr. Barczak and Mrs. Steenson)

Chairman Collins and Mrs. Steenson discussed appointing a stakeholder committee to work with the middle school in their student assessment pilot program and report back to the board since Mrs. Steenson was not comfortable that reports would be presented to the board as stated.

Motion to amend motion on the floor: Mrs. Steenson motioned to amend the motion on the floor to include a stakeholder committee be created to report back to the board of the middle school student assessment pilot program in the 2012-2013 school year. Mr. Mascola seconded.

Mr. Mascola and Mrs. Delfino believe it is not necessary to appointment a school board committee at this time. Chairman Collins noted that as previously requested the survey results have not been presented to the board as yet. Mrs. Steenson believes that the committee would give parents and community members a more comfortable feeling. Mrs. Withee stated she would not like to complicate the process anymore and would encourage the continuous work the team has been accomplishing. Mr. Mascola then called the question for a vote.

With no further discussion the motion failed with a vote 2-6-0. (Mr. Collins and Mrs. Steenson voted in favor)

Mr. Mascola then called the question for a vote.

With no further discussion the amended motion carried with a vote 6-2-0. (Mr. Barczak and Mrs. Steenson)

Mr. Mascola thanked Mr. Hogan for all his work on this matter.

Science Curriculum

First reading of the sixth grade science curriculum

Mr. Strainge reported on the changes to the sixth grade science curriculum in compliance with policy IGD. Mr. Strainge then proceeded to describe the need to modify the curriculum which will exclude eighth grade standards and create a deeper understanding of fewer topics re-aligning with the seventh and eighth grade curriculum. He then presented a PowerPoint presentation that outlined the changes and why.

Motion: Mrs. Aubrey motioned to accept the first reading of the 6th grade science curriculum as presented. Mr. Mascola seconded. With no further discussion the motion carried with a unanimous vote of 8-0-0.

Suspension Authorization

Chairman Collins explained the board is asked annually to authorize the superintendent and assistant superintendent to suspend students beyond ten days as outlined in RSA 193:13.

Motion: Mrs. Aubrey motioned to authorize the Superintendent and his designee to continue the suspension of a student for a period in excess of ten school days as provided for in RSA 193:13 (b). Mr. Mascola seconded. With no further discussion the motion carried with a unanimous vote of 8-0-0.

Self-Evaluation

Chairman Collins noted a SAU board work session is scheduled for July 24, 2012 to focus on this topic. He suggested addressing it at that time.

Administrators Report

Mr. La Salle reported that former school board member Brian Stack is now the Principal of Sanborn Regional High School and his interview is featured in the Merrimack Valley Business report.

Personnel

Mr. Feneberg recommended accepting the following resignations of:

Matthew Gallant	TRHS	English Teacher	9 years with the district
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Michael Grenier	TRHS	Mathematics	3 years with the district
Danielle Moore	Pollard	S/L Pathologist	2 years with the district

Motion: Mrs. Aubrey motioned to approve the resignation of

Matthew Gallant	TRHS	English Teacher	9 years with the district
Michael Grenier	TRHS	Mathematics	3 years with the district
Danielle Moore	Pollard	S/L Pathologist	2 years with the district

Mr. Mascola seconded. With no further discussion the motion carried with a unanimous vote 8-0-0.

Mr. Feneberg recommended approving the following nominations of:

Kimberly DeGrad	Pollard	Special Education
Catherine Plourde	Sandown Central	Special Education
Berkly Sadana	TRMS	Science
Susanne Theriault	Danville	PreK Special Education 50%
Renee Therrien	Danville	PreK 50%

Motion: Mrs. Aubrey motioned to approve the nominations of

Kimberly DeGrad	Pollard	Special Education
Catherine Plourde	Sandown Central	Special Education
Berkly Sadana	TRMS	Science
Susanne Theriault	Danville	PreK Special Education 50%
Renee Therrien	Danville	PreK 50%

Mr. Barczak seconded. With no further discussion the motion carried with a unanimous vote 8-0-0.

Committee and Reports of the School Board

Mrs. Withee provided a recap of the Facilities Committee meeting where an upgrade to the building maintenance system for the middle school and Performing Arts Center (PAC) was proposed. It would be an upgrade to the PAC HVAC maintenance system and a repair to the middle school system to be funded from the current budget. She stated the recommendation from the Committee is that the board approve and commit to the project for the 2011-2012 school year. A second proposal was presented to the Committee regarding re-paving at Sandown Central School. Mrs. Withee noted that the Facilities Committee is in agreement with completing both these projects. She explained that many projects are on a list of needing to be performed but with the financial constraints at hand, the Facilities Committee acts cautiously. They do, however, support these projects as needing to be accomplished and they can be funded in this year's budget. Mr. Barczak would like to see the Budget Committee review these projects before the board is asked to consider them. Mr. La Salle noted that the HVAC projects are to correct damage from a spike during an electrical storm and the paving at Sandown Central is a safety issue.

Mrs. Withee motioned to approve the HVAC repairs presented at the middle school and PAC and re-pave the Sandown Central parking area; seconded by Mrs. Aubrey.

Mr. Bealo motioned to amend the motion on the floor to include "not to exceed \$75,000"; seconded by Mr. Barczak. With no further discussion the motion to amend the motion on the floor passes (7-1-0). (Mrs. Steenson opposed)

With no further discussion the amended motion passed by unanimous vote (8-0-0).

Mrs. Steenson noted issues with the magnetic door system at Danville and the solutions proposed. Mrs. Aubrey noted that Mr. Hughes is checking the solutions proposed. Mrs. Withee ended her report by noting the fall facilities tour and meetings schedule.

Mrs. Aubrey reported on the Safety Committee meeting.

Correspondence

None

Vendor and Payroll Check Registers

Done

Other

Mr. Stokinger reported on the monthly Beede Superfund meeting. He reviewed proposed construction at Danville Road and Main Street (Rte 121A) creating a four way intersection. He noted that further details will be forth coming in future reports.

Motion: Mr. Bealo motioned to enter into nonpublic session at 11:40 PM under RSA 91-A:3,II (c) reputation and student matters; seconded by Mr. Barczak. The board was polled:

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

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

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

The board exited non-public session at 12:15 AM. No action was taken in nonpublic session.

Having no further business before the board Chairman Collins adjourned the meeting at 12:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Danahy
School Board Clerk