

Tinmouth School Board
Official Minutes
November 14th, 2011

Present were Kimberly Stewart, chair; board members Helen Telfer and Cindy Taylor-Patch (arrived at 6:33pm). Also present were Gail Fallar, Town Treasurer; Joan Paustian, Superintendent; Gail Curtis, Principal; Louis Milazzo, RSWSU Business Manager; Community members Helen Mango and Grant Reynolds (arrived at 6:56pm); Jonathan Czar, Secretary.

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

MINUTES

The minutes for October 10th were reviewed. Kimberly moved to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Helen. All approved, motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Superintendent's Report – Joan provided a written report (attached, page 3).

Business Manager's Report – Louis provided the next draft of the budget later in the meeting.

Principal's Report – Gail Curtis provided a written report (attached, page 5).

Kimberly moved to approve the consent agenda. Helen seconded, all approved.

BILLS AND ORDERS/FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Gail passed out the Financial Statement and Bill and Orders for the board to review.

AP Warrants		
Warrant #	Date	Amount
8	10/17/11	\$14,482.53
9	10/31/11	\$11,779.77
10	10/14/11	\$172,034.59
PR Warrants		
Warrant #	Date	Amount
8	10/24/11	\$14,643.65
9	11/07/11	\$13,861.79

Kimberly moved to approve warrants, Helen seconded. All approved.

OLD BUSINESS

- **FY13 Budget** – Louis provided the next draft of the budget. Line items were discussed. Some things to note:
 - a) Secondary tuition is up by approximately \$9800.
 - b) SPED services are now based on a service plan.
 - c) 3% increase budgeted for MRU tuition.

- d) \$52,000 is left in the tax stabilization fund.
- **Action Plan** – Gail Curtis handed out the action plan with changes in red and teacher additions in green. Joan's recommendation is to write a 1-year action plan with measurable goals. ACT 60 requires action plan approval every year. The board will review the plan for a December decision.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Approve Announced FY13 Tuition Rate** – after discussion and comparing the TES tuition rate with other schools, Cindy moved to set the announced FY13 tuition at \$10,500. Helen seconded. All approved, motion carried. Kimberly moved to bill back Ira \$615 for FY11 allowable tuition. Helen seconded. All approved, motion carried.

POLICIES

Policies for adoption (Revised by VSBA due to changes in law)

- D-1 Personnel Recruitment, Selection, Appointment and Criminal Record Checks
- D-6 Substitute Teachers

Cindy moved to adopt D1 and D6. Helen seconded. All approved, motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

- **Rate of pay for ASP personnel** – Joan reported that the wrong contract had been submitted for approval of the Afterschool program personnel. Jen Calvey should have been recommended at \$20/hour as coordinator and Stuart and John (instructors) at \$15/hour based on previous 2009 contracts. Kimberly moved to adjust the ASP coordinator to \$20/hour and ASP instructors to \$15/hour – all from the current rate of \$13/hour. The adjustment will also be retroactive to the beginning of the school year. Cindy seconded, all approved. Motion carried.
- **SPED Position Change** - Due to the arrival of two new students requiring Special Ed Services, the board needed to approve Eileen Guyette from a .8 position to full time employee. Motion to increase Eileen from .8 to FTE starting Friday, November 18th until February was made by Kimberly. Seconded by Cindy, all approved. Motion carried.
- **Approve Kelly Service Substitutes** - Kimberly moved to approve the list of Kelly Substitutes, Helen seconded. All approved, motion carried.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is set for December 12th, 5:30 p.m. in order not to conflict with the holiday concert at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 7:42 p.m. made by Kimberly, Cindy seconded. All approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan Czar

To: Tinmouth Board
From: Joan Paustian
Date: October 31, 2011

Comments:

- A team of teachers and administrators have been meeting to write the essential standards for writing. The team has completed identifying the essential standards through grade 7. One of the goals for this team to identify a uniform writing process that will be used from kindergarten through grade 12 with increasing appropriate skills. By using a uniform process from grade to grade, teachers will use common language and increase needed skills with consistency. This should ensure that all of our students understand the writing process and are able to build skills yearly from grade to grade. This team is chaired by Linda O'Leary and they have completed writing through grade 7.
- You may not be aware that there is a state organization for our office professionals. It is the Vermont Association of Education Office Professionals VAEOP. The organization promotes best practices and provides professional development opportunities for school office folks. For example, Saturday's conference focused on a number of time saving and efficient strategies in using the newest version of Microsoft Office. Jan said that the training was extremely valuable.
- PHS Principal Tom Fitzgerald has extended an invitation to some of the students at our four elementary schools to see the dress rehearsal of "33 Reasons Not to be in a Play" on November 17. Tom has offered to help with transportation. What a great opportunity for many of our students as it might open a passion for theater in some of our youngsters.
- Congratulations to Tammy Moyer who has been elected to the executive board of VAEOP as Secretary and to Jan Dente who has been elected to the executive board as Region Four Chair. It is good to have such great representation in VAEOP.
- We have been most fortunate to have storage space on Main Street for RSWSU containers donated by Mr. Colvin for over 2 years now. Mr. Colvin has informed us that he will be doing some work in the building and needs the space. Louis is in the process trying to locate a small storage area at a reasonable cost. Previously boxes were piled in our kitchen and located at Poultney High School and Poultney Elementary School. One of the efficiencies that we have built into our process in the last two years is to label every box that goes into storage with a destroy date on the outside so that as store boxes over the summer from previous year's work, we also bring back and shred those boxes that have an appropriate destroy date. Therefore, we are only holding those records required by law.
- The Southwest Vermont Superintendents have invited all of the Vermont senators and representatives, who represent the towns from Leicester to Pownal and from the Green Mountains to the New York border, to join our November 16 meeting. This will be the third time we have invited our legislators to join our group in November. The meeting is typically very well attended. It gives the superintendents an opportunity to share the concerns our school districts have, get some information about the intentions of our legislators, and ask how we can be of service to them.

- I am attaching an opinion piece from the Commissioner of Education regarding the current strike.

“Who is Looking Out for the Best Interest of Kids?

As commissioner, I have no authority to intervene in the Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union (SWVSU) strike or any other local contract negotiation. However, I believe I have a responsibility to speak up on behalf of the students. In 2005, as the superintendent of the Colchester School District, I experienced firsthand the impact of a strike on the community, the school board, teachers and staff, but most importantly on the students.

If we ever hear anything about the impact of strikes on students, it is typically about sports. During the current strike, seemingly due to the voices of students, varsity sports have continued to occur. However, I am more concerned about the impact that missed school has on the academic progress and well-being of kids.

Many Vermont students depend on the school day to meet very basic needs. More than one-third of the Vermont students are eligible for free or reduced price meals, and strikes can hinder their ability to access them. In this case, the Abbey Group and the SWVSU have distributed food to families at an alternate site to ensure those students do not go hungry.

Beyond the direct impact of students losing access to their education, this has a ripple effect for many students. Students who take AP classes can fall behind in the AP curriculum, which is set on a timetable for a national test which is given on a set day. Students who may be struggling in school lose critical instructional time. Students who have special needs lose that support. Media reports also note the impact that this particular strike is having on students’ college entrance work, as essays are unread and letters of recommendation go unwritten.

Families are extremely stressed during a strike in finding appropriate and affordable care for their children. During my time in Colchester, I knew of parents who had to take unpaid leave time to be able to be with their children, which puts significant financial strain on the entire family. Those who cannot find proper care are then forced to leave their children alone.

So, what do we do about it? I am not taking sides on local contract issues, and everyone needs to understand that this is the business side of education. But the business side should still be able to occur without impacting students and families.

Vermont is one of only 13 states, and the only one in New England, that allows teachers to strike. I will be seeking support for legislation that does not allow teacher strikes, but also bans school board imposition of contracts. The negotiations need to continue, with school in session, no matter how long it takes to settle a contract.

Will this be easy or without critics? Of course not. Teachers’ unions may complain that this would take away a significant bargaining option. School boards may be against losing their ability to impose contracts. But ultimately, schools, teachers, and school boards should be about students and student success. Strikes and contract impositions do nothing to benefit students. This idea levels the playing field for both sides.

It is time to stand up for the silent victims of strike: students. We created these current rules, so we can change them. It is too late to do anything for the current strike, but we can have a positive impact on students during negotiations for years to come.

Armando Vilaseca

Vermont Commissioner of Education”.

10/27/2011

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

DATE: OCTOBER 10, 2011

- MAINTENANCE:

- We have cleaned out the attic and half of the ski room downstairs. This was necessary for the work men to get more insulation in the school.

- FUNDRAISING:

- We earned over \$1400 dollars for the activity fund through Yankee Candle sales.
- At our parent group meeting, we discussed not doing Yankee Candle next year and doing Current instead.
- We discussed keeping the other fund raisers that the parent group does, including the plant sale at the end.

- WELLNESS:

- At the first meeting, we organized and talked about expectations
- We concentrated on Farm to School Grant professional development opportunities.
- The staff meetings in October included consultants who came to us to begin our work on writing the Farm to School Grant.
- The November meeting will be around Goals
- On Saturday, Oct. 22nd John Gillette, Tracey Tinsley, and I spent the day in Lake Morey learning about breakfast programs.

- EVENTS:

- The celebration we had on Halloween was enjoyed by all.
- December meeting will be the same time as the board meeting... should we meet earlier?

**Katherine has agreed to be the point person when I am out of the building.