

Tinmouth School Board  
Official Minutes  
January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Present were Helen Mango, Chair; Board member Cindy Taylor-Patch. Also present were Susan McKelvie, Principal; Kathryn Fredericks, Lead Teacher; Gail Fallar, Town Treasurer; Joan Paustian, Superintendent; Louis Milazzo, RSWSU Business Manager; Jonathan Czar, Secretary.

Helen called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

**MINUTES**

Minutes were reviewed, amended, and left to be approved with the rest of the consent agenda.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Business Manager's Report**

- Louis provided reports for the board to review
- Helen asked for clarification on budget issue regarding state tax rate and also the Education Jobs Fund which gives Vermont school districts \$19,000,000 from the US government. Louis reported that decisions about that fund can be made locally.

**Superintendent's Report**

Joan provided a written report (attached, page 5). Additional items and notes are as follows:

- All RSWSU school budgets except PHS are finalized
- The state mandated 2% cuts have been met in all schools
- PHS is working with a consultant on Breaking Ranks, which changes the traditional high school model to have such things as personalization like project based learning.
- TES has all reports ready for town meeting
- Next scheduled meeting on February 14th needs to be moved. January 31<sup>st</sup> seems to be the best day.

**Principal's Report** – Susan provided a written report (page 4).

Helen moved to accept the Consent Agenda. Cindy seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

**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
12	12/27/10	\$37,586.50

AP Warrants		
Warrant #	Date	Amount
13	01/10/11	\$4,420.49
PR Warrants		
Warrant #	Date	Amount
12	12/27/10	\$13,205.86
13	01/03/11	\$10,133.62

Gail expressed concern with the budgeted withdrawal from the tax stabilization fund. The fund was created to stabilize the tax rate, to keep it from going up or down sharply. Using 2/3 in one year could mean a big jump in next year's taxes as the budget will be \$100,000 short of revenue to start. Helen replied that it was necessary due to the combination of the bookkeeping error and the Board wanting to meet the state's 2% reduction challenge.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- **Approve Substitute List** - Helen moved to approve the substitute list. Seconded by Cindy, all approved. Motion Carried.
- **Prepare for Warning** – the Board discussed wording of the articles for the upcoming town informational meeting.

Helen moved to adopt the warning for annual town meeting and authorize board members to sign it individually. Seconded by Cindy, all approved. Motion carried.

#### POLICIES

- E-518 Mileage and Travel Reimbursement
- F-105 Life Threatening Allergies
- G-14 Optimum Class Size

Helen moved to adopt E-518 (Mileage and Travel Reimbursement), F-105 (Life Threatening Allergies), and G-14 (Optimum Class Size). Seconded by Cindy, all approved. Motion carried.

#### Policies to be rescinded or for possible action:

1. **Policy for Ethical Use of Manual Restraint** – decided to table due to new regulations coming from the state
2. **Student Contests and Fund Raising Activities** – rescind due to being unnecessary
3. **Immunization** – covered by law. Rescind.
4. **Rabies Prevention** – covered by Animals in Schools policy. Rescind.
5. **Staff Development** – covered by new professional development policy. Rescind
6. **Student Injuries** – parts covered by other policies. Susan wants to consult Terri Nebraska (school nurse). Tabled for now.
7. **Delegation** – same as #6.
8. **Prescription Medication** – same as #6.

Helen moved to rescind 2-5 due to being unnecessary or covered by more recent policy

and law. Seconded by Cindy, all approved. Motion carried.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be January 31<sup>st</sup> 2010, 7:00 p.m., at Tinmouth Elem.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Helen moved to go into Executive Session at 8:00 for purposes of contract negotiations. Cindy seconded, all approved.

**CONTINUATION MINUTES**

Motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:04pm. No action taken.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Helen moved to adjourn at 8:05pm. Seconded by Cindy.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jonathan Czar

Principal's Report  
Tinmouth School Board Meeting  
January 10, 2011

Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment

- Six members of our staff are attending the curriculum course that will result in new English/Language Arts instructional calendars for grades k-12. Kathryn Fredericks, Stuart Gerrol, Eileen Guyette, Allyn Kahle, Susan McKelvie, and Tracey Tinsley are representing our school.
- This year, staff is planning a variation of our annual Personal Performance Project night. In conjunction with our focus on Wellness and our new Health curriculum, we are developing a Community Health Fair which will be held on April 7<sup>th</sup>. Students will present research projects focused on Wellness/Health topics, and the community center will house a variety of activities for community members of all ages.
- Our 4<sup>th</sup> grade students have been selected to participate in the “NAEP” – National Assessment of Educational Progress” on February 28<sup>th</sup>. This is an annual assessment given nationally to selected students in grades 4 and 8 in reading and mathematics. While we do not receive any scores or feedback on our students, NAEP data is used at the state and national level to compare student learning over time.
- Our Pre-K program was recently recognized by the state of Vermont with a 4-star rating, which is considered above expectations. Congratulations to Lisa Edge who receives a check for \$1,150 to purchase materials for the Pre-K program.

Other News

In the last month we have received two grants to support the goals of our Tinmouth Wellness Initiative.

Farm to School Grant (written by John Gillette): will provide us with funding to plan and implement a system of bringing in more local produce to our school lunch program. John and our Wellness Coordinator Tracey Tinsley will travel to Montpelier on January 20<sup>th</sup> to receive the grant and to meet with other recipients to share ideas and plans.

Learning Kitchen Grant (written by Tracey Tinsley): will provide funding for an after-school program aimed at 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders where they learn how to make healthy meals and then are given a bag of groceries to take home to make the meal for their families. Tracey will be the facilitator for this program.

Plans are continuing to move forward with the Fitness Trail concept. While we are still very early in the process, the Wellness Council is planning a timeline, writing grants and discussing other ways to raise funds, and working with the Select Board to continue ironing out concerns or questions.

Kudos to music teacher Leslie Klami and ALL Tinmouth students who presented an amazing performance on December 13<sup>th</sup>.

To: Tinmouth Board  
From: Joan Paustian  
Date: January 5, 2011

**Comments:**

- Susan McKelvie and I have been working with Steve Hamilton and Susan Hayes of WestEd to ensure that the course that folks are taking will meet the curriculum needs of our supervisory union. To put the work in very simple terms, we will be identifying 6 to 8 essential standards (outcomes) that we expect our students to master every quarter for every grade level. The standards will be put into an instructional calendar with the expectation that every teacher across the SU will teach these essential standards. The standards will be placed in an instructional calendar and formative assessments will be adopted or written to measure the achievement levels towards mastery. We will focus this work during the course in the area of English/ Language Arts and will be able to use the training for all other content areas.
- Act 153 requires that supervisory union boards have formal conversations about possible mergers stating “On or before December 1, 2010, the board of each supervisory union shall discuss, and the board of every school district may discuss, whether it wishes to explore the merger of districts within the SU or with one or more districts outside the SU or both under the terms of the act”. We have held several informal conversations at the SU level and the Poultney Board has met with the Fair Haven Union Board so I have reported this information to the DOE. I will be placing a discussion item on the next SU agenda for this topic for our January meeting. Vaughn Altemus, DOE financial manager along with Brad James, has been made the contact person for any districts thinking of merger discussions at any level.
- We have been notified that Vermont will receive the \$19.3 million in Education Jobs Fund. These are federal monies and the thought from the Commissioner is that the monies can be used for FY 12 and possibly FY 13 to offset the cuts required by the Challenges for Change (C4C) legislation. The DOE is clearly stating that the Education Jobs Fund monies are not expected to be used in FY '11. I would caution us to not create new positions as this is “one time” money. Louis will report the allocations for each district at our upcoming meetings.
- I am including an Op Ed piece from Bill Mathis (former Brandon superintendent) on international test scores. It gives one an educational perspective.