

Tinmouth School Board
Official Minutes
October 11th, 2010

Present were Helen Mango, Chair; Board members Kimberly Stewart, 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; Shauna Woods; Nicole Woods; Nancy Birdsall, Secretary.

Helen called the meeting to order at 6:58 p.m.

Helen moved to suspend the order of agenda and go into executive session for the purpose of discussing a student issue. Seconded by Kimberly, all approved.

Helen moved to come out of executive session at 7:11 p.m. No action taken.

MINUTES

Helen moved to approve the minutes for September 13th, 2010 as amended. Cindy seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Business Manager's Report

- See *Budget* section

Superintendent's Report

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

- Staff Enrollment Study – the average class size for Tinmouth is a little over 12 students. The SU is working on a class size and optimum class size policy for November. The average cost per pupil does not include transportation, maintenance, or building costs.

Principal's Report

Susan provided a written report (attached page 4). Additional notes are as follows:

- Plumbing issues in the Community Center - Helen will call a meeting of the Community Center Board to discuss the situation.
- Technology Upgrade – Helen moved to accept Susan's proposal for technology upgrades with permission to spend within 5% of the proposed amount. Kimberly seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

Helen moved to accept the consent agenda, Cindy seconded. All approved, motion carried.

RSWSU SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Systems Management – will be meeting in November.
- HR – did not meet last month. Next meeting is October 19th.

- Finance - Working on first draft of the budget. Next SU meeting is October 25th.

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
5	09/20/10	\$16,649.93
6	10/04/10	\$58,439.52
PR Warrants		
Warrant #	Date	Amount
6	09/27/10	\$13,178.46
7	10/11/10	\$13,233.10

NEW BUSINESS

- One person has been removed from the substitute list.

BUDGET

- Louis presented the first draft of the budget. The board discussed line item details. The board agreed to accommodate funding for Living History under Curriculum Enhancement.

POLICIES - (DRAFT for input only)

- Truancy
 - Grade Advancement, Retention and Acceleration of Students
 - Safety and Security
- Above policies will be renumbered and considered for adoption at next meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be November 8th, 2010, 7:00 p.m., at the Tinmouth Elementary School.

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan Czar

Curriculum/Academics

- All grades have begun the implementation of our new Health curriculum. Currently teachers are co-teaching the lessons with our PE teacher/Wellness Coordinator Tracey Tinsley. As the year progresses, they will eventually take the lead in their own classrooms.
- NECAP testing in grades 3-6 is ongoing all week in Reading, Math, and Writing (5th grade).
- The Technology Integration Specialist, Jason Lamora, has been working with all staff members on increasing the amount of time students are using technology to learn in classrooms. Each teacher is in the process of working with Jason to develop a unit plan developing relevant technology to increase learning (not just to use the technology). Also, with Jason's assistance, Mrs. Kahle has created a beautiful new school web page, and staff will be making individual classroom web pages (starting tomorrow!).

Buildings and Grounds:

4. Unfortunately, we had water in the basement during the recent storm. It appears the water was coming up through the floor, rather than due to gutters or water in the window wells. Harold has disinfected the floors (again) and we will continue to keep an eye on it. The good news is that not a drop came through the roof.
5. Discussion regarding plumbing concerns with Community center.

Technology Proposal

6. As a result of the recent Curriculum Management Audit and the Technology Audit, we are aware that our students and teachers do not have the same degree of access to technology tools for learning as other schools in our SU. While we have made improvements over the last couple of years, about half of our computers are 5-6 years old or older. With daily student/staff use, these computers require constant repairs and do not have the recent upgrades of newer models. We also have only one interactive Smart Board in one classroom in our school. As we aim to prepare our kids with the skills to interact meaningfully in a technological world, we believe we must improve our efforts to increase the amount of technology we put in their hands to learn, as well as teaching them how to use technology to communicate, create, interact with other learners beyond the walls of the school/home, and explore the world. In consultation with Jason Lamora and our Technology Coordinator Nick Striglia, we propose the following two-

year plan to upgrade our technology tools *at no cost to Tinmouth taxpayers*, by using Medicaid monies that have been accumulating over recent years.

Proposal (expenses are approximate)

Step 1: 2010-2011 Upgrade Tinmouth technology to improve access for all students, including:

14 Netbook Computers and software	\$ 9,000
1 Smartboard and Overhead Projector	3,000
6 Flip Cameras	700
2 Document Cameras/carts	<u>2,200</u>
Total	14,900

Step 2: 2011-2012 Add additional components to bring us to equity with other schools, including:

2 Smartboards and Overhead Projectors	\$ 6,000
2 Document Cameras/carts	2,200
Software upgrades/licenses	<u>1,500</u>
	9,700

Over the course of the next year, we will also work together with the Technology Committee and our tech experts to assess a long-term vision that aligns with the SU mission/vision and looks at ways to purchase and maintain technology tools efficiently and effectively. The plan described above is intended to put our students on a level playing field with their peers locally, statewide, and nationally.

To: Tinmouth Board
From: Joan Paustian
Date: October 1, 2010

Comments:

- During Tom's tenure, Dick Stewart (former Business Manager) was hired to do a financial analysis of costs per student by classrooms at the Poultney Elementary level and by the department at the Poultney High School secondary level. This data was useful to the Board as they made budgetary decisions. Some have looked to me to replicate the study. Since our office is completing the study, we are replicating it for our other three elementary schools as well. With Jan's and Louis' help, we should have the study completed by Tuesday (October 5th) so that the Administrative Team can review the documents to ensure accuracy. The goal is to get you these reports at your October Board meeting.

- The new conference room at RSWSU offices has been a wonderful addition. Few days go by without some group meeting in that space. Now meeting conversations do not interfere or distract the folks who sit behind the counter and those folks no longer worry about visitors overhearing phone calls involving confidential information. Although the space is tight for big groups, folks seem comfortable and happy to have a space to meet. It has been noted that rather than rushing out quickly after meetings, folks seem more relaxed and happy as they leave the office. Thank you all for your support on making this happen.

- I will be out of the office several days this month at the following conferences or important events:
 - Oct 7 & 8 – New England Superintendents' Conference in Rhode Island
 - October 20th – Southwest Vermont Superintendents' meeting (am) and UVM Teacher of the Year Awards in Burlington (pm)
 - October 28th & 29th – Vermont Superintendents' Asso & Vermont School Boards' Asso Fall Conference
 - School is closed on October 21st and 22nd for Vermont Teachers' Convention. I will be away on both of those days.

- Jay LaMora is working in all of the schools to ensure that teachers and students gain mastery of 21st century skills. In the near future, Jay will also be showing administrators what is happening in the classrooms as well as what kinds of skills and outcomes administrators should be seeing when visiting classrooms. It is critical that the administrators also learn the skills and the host of opportunities that technology provides in order to maximize learning opportunities for our students.

- I spent last Friday visiting the high school classrooms. I hope to be in all the elementary classrooms next week. It is helpful to be able to see teachers supporting children's learning.