

Tinmouth School Board
Official Minutes
November 8th, 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 6:58 p.m.

MINUTES

Helen moved to approve the minutes for October 11th, 2010 as amended. Cindy seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Business Manager's Report

- See *FY12 Budget* section

Superintendent's Report

Joan provided a written report (full report - page 5). Summary and additional notes are as follows:

- Poultney and Fair Haven school boards are meeting to discuss collaboration of resources in an effort to reduce costs.
- Joan attended the VSA and VSBA conference. MRU underestimated the tuition rate, undercharging by \$1000 per student. Louis is building that amount into anticipated budget.
- The Southwest Vermont Superintendents are meeting with legislators to discuss recent legislation.
- The new Smartboard has arrived. Training will be next week.
- The time allotment for Nick Striglia's tech support to various schools has changed.

Principal's Report

Susan provided a written report (full report - page 3). Summary and additional notes are as follows:

- Wellness Council is looking into building a fitness trail and half-court basketball court.
- TES has received their Netbooks.
- Musical Theater is now being offered on Monday afternoons.
- The annual holiday dinner will be November 19th.
- The school is looking at grading and drainage around the Community Center. Ryan Depert has walked the grounds and provided some consultation. Gail recommended he also talk to Hollis Squier who may have more insight. Lisa Patry has volunteered to head grant writing.
- TES is working with Middletown to explore the possibility of joint

basketball teams for grades 3-4 and 5-6.

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

RSWSU SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Systems Management – more policies are up for adoption. Next meeting is December 7th.
- HR – Next meeting is Wednesday.

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
7	10/18/10	\$17,408.80
8	11/01/10	\$192,756.78
9	11/15/10	\$39,348.61
PR Warrants		
Warrant #	Date	Amount
8	10/25/10	\$12,262.90
9	11/08/10	\$14,009.93

FY12 BUDGET

- Louis provided the most recent draft and started with the deadline for the announced tuition. Helen moved to set the tuition rate for FY12 @ \$10,000. Cindy seconded, all approved. Motion carried.
- The budget is currently down from last year. Susan would like additional time for the school nurse (at minor additional cost). The board discussed line items to meet TES' target and will try to finalize the budget next month. Louis will send out a revised budget before next meeting.

POLICIES

- F-25A Truancy
- G-9 Grade Advancement, Retention and Acceleration of Students
- E-6 Safety and Security

Helen moved to adopt F-25a, G-9, E-6. Cindy seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

PERSONNEL

- New Hires: Leslie Klami – ASP Music/Theatre Instructor; Mary Barron – Instrumental Music Instructor
- Resignations & Terminations: - None

Helen moved to approve hiring Leslie Klami and Mary Barron (grant-funded). Cindy seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be December 13th, 2010, 5:00 p.m., at Tinmouth Elem.

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan Czar

Tinmouth School Board Report
Susan McKelvie, Principal
November 15, 2010

1.) Buildings/Grounds:

- a. See attached note from Cathy Reynolds regarding grading needs around the community center and school building.
- b. Our Wellness Council is exploring the possibility of developing a fitness trail and half-court basketball court for the area around the perimeter of the softball field and playground. Two members of the council attended the most recent Select Board meeting to inform them of our plans to seek grant funding for the trail and to receive feedback on the concept. The board was supportive and provided good information as we continue to move forward with developing the plans and applying for a variety of grants.

2.) Curriculum/Instruction/Assessment

- a. The new mini-notebook computers for the 5th and 6th grade class have arrived. Our technology integration specialist is working with the classroom teacher to develop trainings with the students in using the new machines as learning tools. The first project the students will develop is using Movie Maker software to create video presentations of science projects. Some of the completed presentations will be showcased on the school website.

3.) Other news

- a. This year, in addition to offering instrumental music instruction, we are pleased that our music teacher, Leslie Klami, is also offering musical theater on Monday afternoons after school. This program is linked to music the kids are learning during the school day, and tunes/lyrics the students themselves are writing. There is a lot of energy and excitement around this work. We can't wait to see the public performance.
- b. On Monday, Dec. 13, at 6:30 p.m., the students will present a sneak peak of some of the musical theater productions they are working on, as well as performances of some original student-written compositions. This will serve as our winter "concert."
- c. Our annual holiday dinner with special invited guests in attendance will be held this Friday, November 19th. A traditional Thanksgiving dinner will be served by our cook Lynne and a group of volunteers. Students will entertain the guests with two special songs in recognition of the season of harvest and gifts from the earth.
- d. We are currently working with Middletown Springs to explore the possibility of joint basketball teams for students in grades 3/4 and 5/6. While details haven't yet been ironed out, we believe this can be a terrific opportunity for our students and our schools to work together.

Hi-here is a report on the walk around I did with Ryan Deppert this morning to look at the drainage and transition strip between the building and the grass. The one originally created for the CC needs redoing (every 11 years or so it appears).

As we got the back of the classroom wing it is apparent that a bigger fix (which will include some re-grading) is required. I asked Ryan to separate this in his proposal because although it needs to happen, I realize you may not have the budget for it this year. If you go to the back of the school you will see that the bottom foot of Allyn's class room has a retrofit piece of foam instead of wood. This is because the earth pitches towards the building instead of away to a swale. After 25 years the earth has settled and now all the water heads towards the building. I think the gutter is helping. Ideally we want to create that transition zone between the grass and the building (this will protect the foam on the building from the weedwacker and also make mowing a little more efficient) and keep the water away. I also remember Allyn's porch rotting away and being rebuilt at some point in the history of the building. So this is very important, and you should get a number from Ryan for your consideration.

I would like to have the cc work done this fall if possible, and then if you need to budget for the grading work, have him do that July 1 or so. If you want to take a walk back there I am happy to show you what I mean. We should have done this when the building rot was being repaired, but it did not happen. This is good insurance against this happening again. Also Ryan will try to lift Lisa's stoop back up to the proper grade.

To: Tinmouth Board
From: Joan Paustian
Date: November 2, 2010

Comments:

- There was a combined meeting between the Poultney School Board and the Fair Haven School Board to discuss possible ways to collaborate that would allow for a sharing of resources and decrease costs. The sentiment was positive with a number of Fair Haven members stating that their goal was to save money while increasing the quality of education for their youngsters. There was a large audience present which asked many related questions of both Boards. Much of the discussion centered on Acts 146 and 153 (Challenges for Change and Voluntary Merger). Jan took minutes. If anyone would like to see those minutes, please ask Jan to forward you a copy.
- I attended the VSA and VSBA Conference last week. Lt. Col. Brad Letner, US Army, presented a decision making matrix which I will share with Boards in the near future. The matrix allows us to consider several possible decisions to achieve our goals while considering several key elements. For example, we might want to paint the outside of our building and have several options: hire a professional, have volunteers do the work, or have our own maintenance staff do the work. Elements to consider might include: costs, time factors, lead paint removal, repairing clapboards, need for specialty equipment (ladders), quality of the work, liability, and community involvement. Some factors may have more weight in terms of importance. The matrix brings objectivity to difficult decision making. I will share this matrix at an upcoming meeting.
- The Southwest Vermont Superintendents are again inviting state legislators and senators to meet with us on November 17th to discuss both Challenges for Change legislation, Merger legislation, and other factors affecting our schools and supervisory unions. Last year, we had a good turn out and discussion. I am hoping that will be the case again this year.
- At our last RSWSU, I stated that I had heard from another superintendent that each of our budgets needed to be reduced by 2 % and that it was no longer the average of a 2% cut across the supervisory union. As you will remember, Louis had not heard that information, so we asked the superintendent to forward his communication. Louis and I both read it and we believe that it remains as a 2% cut across the entire SU when comparing this year's (FY '11) budget to next year's (FY '12) budget.