

Tinmouth School Board
Official Minutes
March 09, 2009

Present were Helen Mango, Chair; Board member Kimberly Stewart. Also present were Susan McKelvie, Principal; Gail Fallar, Town Treasurer; Bonnie Lenihan, RSWSU Director of Student Services; Cindy Taylor-Patch, community member; SU Switch Committee members Stan Wilbur, Ruth Drachman, Grant Reynolds, Doug Fontein, Helen Telfer; Nancy Birdsall, secretary.

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

RE-ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

a. Election of Officers

After introductions, Kimberly nominated Helen to serve as Board Chairman. Helen seconded, all approved. Helen nominated Kimberly to serve as Board Clerk. Kimberly seconded, all approved. Helen moved that the Board authorize the Chair to sign orders between meetings. Kimberly seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

b. Re-affirm/set meeting schedule - The Board reaffirmed the 2nd Monday of each month for their meeting date.

c. School District Treasurer - Gail Fallar was appointed Treasurer.

d. Truant Officer - Bob Emerick was appointed Truant Officer.

e. Newspaper of Record - The Rutland Herald was appointed as the Newspaper of Record.

f. Affirm Robert's Rules of Order For Small Boards - Helen affirmed the Robert's Rules of Order For Small Boards.

Helen announced that Anne Robbins has resigned from the Board for professional reasons. She has taken a part time position at Middletown Springs Elementary and serving the Board could be perceived as a conflict of interest. Helen will post in the Tinmouth Tales that the position is open and someone will be appointed by the Board.

Helen moved to change the order of business to hear from the SU Switch Committee. Kimberly seconded, all approved. Motion Carried.

SU SWITCH COMMITTEE

The committee to research switching Supervisory Unions gave an update on what they were working on and issues they were encountering. Surveys to determine performance differences between incoming students from difference SU's would be problematic for a variety of reasons, although some informal interviews have been done by Doug and Ruth. Stan and Grant worked on the financial impact of transitioning from RSWSU to RSSU. Using Shrewsbury as an example, some charges were different. However, Mill River is a separate district and assesses each town on a per-student basis. As a result, an adequate comparison cannot yet be made. There are other problems with costs that don't appear on the bottom line such as changes to computer systems and support. Another issue was

whether Title I money would be lost since the RSWSU doesn't allocate this money the same way.

Susan noted the RSSU does not participate in the 21st Century grant which funds the after school program at Tinmouth. Since parents rely on the program, another funding source would be needed.

Gail reported the survey for designating a preferred high school has been completed. All agreed to hold off sharing the results until the decision to switch SU's is closer.

The Committee will continue meeting with school officials and will meet again on March 24th. They will return their findings to the Board by the April 13th School Board meeting.

Helen thanked the committee for their hard work.

MINUTES

Helen moved to approve the minutes for February 9th, 2009 as amended. Kimberly seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Business Manager's Report:

Louis did not send a report. The Board would like to see RSWSU reports on a monthly basis, although Louis does not need to attend unless needed.

Principal's Report:

Susan provided a verbal report. The Standby Water Disinfection system is awaiting the final paperwork from the state. It will be a two day project over April break.

Susan shared a graph showing TES NECAP scores in comparison with other schools. Curriculum auditing will be done at the district level in reading, math, and science.

Update on Special Educator – concerns and challenges with paperwork, in finding time to bring work in to parameters of law. Susan expressed concern in December about funding to pay educator to bring in to compliance. Currently changes have been made to be in compliance – working with paraeducators and schedules – on track with possible additional funding, Bonnie may be able to develop a new need through Federal Funds (grant).

Supervisory Union subcommittees:

Helen will serve on the Systems Management committee. Kimberly will serve on the Human Resources committee. The next SU meeting is scheduled for March 23.

Superintendent's Report:

Tom provided a written report (attached page 4).

BILLS AND ORDERS

Gail presented the following warrants for the board to sign.

AP Warrants		
Warrant #	Date	Amount
14	02/16/09	\$17,296.04
15	03/02/09	\$ 8,948.02
Payroll Warrants		
Warrant #	Date	Amount
16	02/23/09	\$11,059.93
17	03/09/09	\$12,987.14

NEW BUSINESS

Policies

Helen explained the Board's role in ensuring polices exist and are followed at the local school level. The Vermont School Board Association has policy language and format. They are in the process of making sure policies are up-to-date throughout the district. The Superintendent suggested having one comprehensive policy book for RSWSU and individual schools. RSWSU and individual schools agreed to have first readings at SU level and local level at the same time for efficiency.

At the next meeting, the Board needs to do a first reading of policies and bring changes to the SU for their second reading. By consensus the Board decided to postpone the first reading to the April 13th meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be April 13th, 2009, 7:00 p.m., at the Tinmouth Elementary School.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. made by Helen, seconded by Kimberly. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Birdsall

From: Thomas Gallagher
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 2:53 PM
To: Jan Dente
Subject: Tinmouth update march
Tinmouth School Board
March 9, 2009

The board requested information about non-teaching staff benefits at the last meeting. This was sent almost immediately. Please let me know if you would like me to bring copies to the meeting.

The EEE students listed are getting services both at home and in school.

The question of volunteers in the school has now arisen in two districts. I had previously checked with our insurance carrier for another school. They stated that we should be prudent in monitoring any insurance liability and that, we are covered for up to \$1 million for any accident involving a volunteer. This seemed to be a non-answer answer.

We have an SU policy on volunteers that defines volunteers as, “an individual not employed by the RSWSU who works on an occasional or regular basis in the school setting to assist staff. A volunteer works without compensation for work performed”

The Board might consider approving volunteers. It might very well satisfy both insurance and any legal requirements should there be any further issues.

I believe Helen will have a thorough report on systems management. It might be a good time to begin reviewing our policies.