

Tinmouth School Board
Official Minutes
October 12th, 2009

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

Helen called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

MINUTES

Helen moved to approve the minutes for September 14th, 2009 as amended. Kimberly seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Superintendent's Report

- Joan reported TES students did well on science NECAPS (the tested students were last year's 4th graders).
- The VT superintendents meeting will be Wednesday, September 16th.
- SU boards will be updated on a regular basis regarding the curriculum audit recommendations.
- TES will receive approximately \$42,000 from ARRA (federal "stimulus" funds). The ARRA funds will be used to replace state funds cut from this year's state education spending.
- Regarding the busing issue from last month, one Tinmouth student will ride the Tinmouth bus rather than the Danby bus from the Tinmouth Pond area, and another Tinmouth student will ride the Wells bus from West Tinmouth.

Business Manager's Report

- The SU is contracting with a private transportation service, Webb Transportation Services (formerly A-to-B Transportation), for a EEE student.
- Bonnie Lenihan, Director of Student Support Services, is preparing next year's service plan for TES. This is typically done with the local SPED teacher. Helen wants to make sure the local administration has some input on specific needs and student lists.
- Budget – the first draft should be ready by the next meeting. Louis will be meeting with Susan for input.

Principal's Report

Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment

- Regarding the NECAP science scores, Susan reported the big challenge is the scientific vocabulary. They will be formulating a plan to address this.
- The draft Action Plan was presented to the board. Almost 100% of the

parents responded to the survey. Susan gave an overview of the sections which included technology, Spanish, music, and after-school programs. The goal is to identify priorities for the education of the students.

Other

- Fluoride Program – Angela Buffum has volunteered to organize a fluoride plan for the school. She is a parent and enrolled in the nursing program at Castleton State College. Participation will be optional for all children.
- H1N1 Flu shots – the school is scheduled for the 1st week of November and the week after Thanksgiving. Participation will be optional for all children. Children under 10 will require 2 shots. There was concern that nurses could be held liable for complications. Susan shared a document regarding liability protection for schools and H1N1 vaccinations.
- The school is anticipating cuts in after-school funding. Surveys will be collated regarding a joint after-school program with Middletown Springs Elementary School.

Building and Grounds

- Helen suggested two projects for next summer – a deep clean of the school and painting the exterior of the entire building, including the Community Center. The procedure will be to get a professional quote but give the town the opportunity to organize and volunteer to get the work done.

Helen moved to accept the reports with thanks. Cindy seconded, all approved.

RSWSU SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Systems Management – more policies are being drafted.
- Finance – discussed surplus. They are meeting again on November 2nd.

BILLS AND ORDERS

AP Warrants		
Warrant #	Date	Amount
5	09/21/09	\$8,730.64
6	10/05/09	\$18,715.43
Payroll Warrants		
Warrant #	Date	Amount
6	09/28/09	\$12,026.12
7	10/12/09	\$12,047.92

NEW BUSINESS

- Louis reported at the last SU meeting, the Finance Committee recommended looking at assessments and the SU schools paying equal share. Helen argued that

TES shouldn't pay for services we don't use, namely bookkeeping services. TES would pay twice for such services as TES already has a bookkeeper. The caveat is this will lead to other districts questioning similar charges.

- Approve Substitute List - Helen moved to approve the substitute list. Kimberly seconded, all approved. Motion carried.
- Review of audit contract renewal - this was discussed at the SU board meeting last month. The board was in favor of renewing the contract with Angolano and Company for a three year period. Putting the contract out to bid would result in a higher price. Louis requested approval from school boards before moving forward. While the SU perceived the auditors to be thorough, Gail's impression was the opposite, especially compared with those in the past. Helen did not feel comfortable approving without more information.
- Cindy asked about improving signs for approved parking areas. Susan reported the parent's club will be working with a sign maker for this project.

POLICIES

I. Under-Age Admittance Procedure

Helen moved to adopt the Under-Age Admittance procedure. Cindy seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be November 9th, 2009, 7:00 p.m., at the Tinmouth Elementary School.

ADJOURNMENT

Helen moved to adjourn at 8:40 p.m., Kimberly seconded.

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan Czar



Report of the Superintendent

To: Tinmouth Board
From: Joan Paustian
Date: October 2, 2009

- Congratulations to the Tinmouth Faculty and Staff. Tinmouth students did very well on their May 2009 NECAP (New England Common Assessment Program). We will be analyzing NECAP results across the supervisory union. We will certainly look at Tin mouth's science curriculum to see its alignment to the Vermont Framework of Standards and Grade Expectations as well as investigate the spiraling of the content and skills from grade level to grade level. It will be interesting to look at the pattern of achievement for the differing cohorts in science to see if the curriculum used for Tinmouth could serve as a guide or model in our work in this content area.
- The Administrative Team has finalized the drafts of two policies which will be sent to the Systems Management Committee. They are "Curriculum Management and Adoption" and the "Curriculum Coordinating Council". These policies will serve as the guide to our work in curriculum, assessment, and professional development. They will likely be coming to the RSWSC Board in October or November.
- I attended a conference on Improving Student Learning with Standards, Assessment, and Learning on Wednesday. The presenter was exceptional and his messages were enlightening. His first important message was that "Change is a prerequisite for improvement" and that we need a vision of where we want our students to be in three or four years. Another main point of the presentation was that "Assessments must be sources of information for students and teachers" and "Must be followed by High Quality Corrective Instruction". I will be sharing some of the information with our Administrative Team. I am hopeful that the New England Consortium of Secondary Schools might be able to bring the author, Thomas Guskey to Vermont. All of his messages were relevant in addition to his examples came from his experiences as a teacher.
- I did visit classrooms in all of the elementary schools over the last few weeks, including those in Tinmouth. Five to ten minute observations give me a very good perception of student engagement, whether the outcome is visibly displayed for the students so that students know what they expect to learn, the classroom climate, the teacher's style of teaching and his or her comfort level with the content being taught. In addition, I can often see if teachers are able to differentiate instruction by what students are doing or by the manner of answering



Report of the Superintendent

questions. It is extremely helpful for me to view teachers working with students. Next week, I will be visiting the High School classrooms.