

Tinmouth School Board
Official Minutes
January 11th, 2010

Present were Helen Mango, Chair; Board members Cindy Taylor-Patch and 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 7:05 p.m.

MINUTES

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Business Manager's Report

- Louis reported an increase in health insurance for FY11, although it is within the amount budgeted. The rest of his report is covered in the budget discussion.

Superintendent's Report

- Joan provided a written report (attached page 4). After summarizing the report by the Education Transformation Committee (a sub-committee of the State Board of Education), there was discussion about representation of smaller schools and towns and the potential problems with consolidating Supervisory Unions.
- The NECAP results for grades 3-5 will be released January 27th. There is a new interactive report that should provide valuable data.
- Tuesday the 12th is the first meeting with consultants to help determine a direction for teaching technology in the schools.
- The Systems Management Committee will be looking at the FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act) policy.
- The SU received an E-rate payment for \$57.

Principal's Report

- NECAP scores will be released January 27th.
- While the school has contacted potential vendors for painting and the deep clean, they still have not received a quote for the services.
- The Community Center floor has been refinished.
- Some electrical work has been done downstairs to improve lighting.
- The Winter concert will be held February 10th with the snow date being the 11th.

Helen moved to accept the consent agenda. Kimberly seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

RSWSU SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Systems Management – next meeting is Thursday, the 14th.
- Finance – there has been much discussion on the issue of fairness regarding what schools pay for bookkeeping services. Representatives from Ira would like to split payment for financial services with Tinmouth. Ira is currently paying \$5200. The town of Tinmouth provides bookkeeping services for the school district. Tinmouth and Ira do not use Central Office staff for bookkeeping services, although some portion of Central Office financial services is used by Tinmouth and Ira, so perhaps these towns could re-consider paying for a portion of the services.

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
13	12/28/09	\$8,755.81
14	01/11/10	\$63,851.62
Payroll Warrants		
Warrant #	Date	Amount
12	12/21/09	\$12,152.28
13	01/04/10	\$9,488.64
13a	01/11/10	\$248.80

NEW BUSINESS

- *Approve Substitute List* – Helen moved to approve the substitute list. Cindy seconded. All approved, motion carried.
- *Review FY11 Budget* – Louis explained the state tax rate and various calculations. Sue Wilborn, Business Manager for the Bennington-Rutland Supervisory Union and Tinmouth resident/parent, suggested two separate articles regarding the allocation of surplus funds. The decided allocation would be \$25,000 to the capital improvement fund, \$50,000 back to taxpayers, and the balance (roughly \$75,000) to a tax stabilization fund (this was formerly the Tuition Fund; a "tax stabilization fund" can be used for tuition or for other purposes). Helen moved to accept the budget of \$1,396,856 for FY11. Cindy seconded. All approved, motion carried. Helen moved to approve the warning with amended article III. Seconded by Kimberly, all approved. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Helen met with Kimberly Mathewson, chairperson for Middletown Springs School Board, to discuss Middletown Springs and TES collaboration on the after-school program. They also discussed the potential for shared food service and some support staff positions.
- The Speech Language Pathologist situation at TES has been resolved.
- Town Meeting is March 2nd with the School Board likely to present around 7:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Helen moved to go into Executive session at 8:35pm for the purpose of personnel discussion. Kimberly seconded. all approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan Czar

CONTINUATION MINUTES

Motion by Helen to come out of executive session at 8:50 p.m. Seconded by Cindy. Motion carried.

No action taken.

Motion to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. made by Helen, seconded by Cindy. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Helen Mango



Report of the Superintendent

To: Tinmouth Board
From: Joan Paustian
Date: January 6, 2010

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

The VSA, VPA, & VSBA first of **2010 Education Legislative Report** has just been released. I assume that you will receive reports from VSBA. In cases you do not have the time to read this lengthy report, **here is a summary** (quotes taken directly from the report):

- General Fund support for public education was reduced in excess of \$50 million last year, and warns that no increase in General Fund support should be expected this year
- The following is an analysis of **some of the changes under consideration by the Commissioners of Education & Finance and Management.**
 - “Phasing out the Small Schools Grant given the demonstrated need to encourage school consolidation”, which will it would sharply increase property taxes paid by residents of the more than 100 towns that benefit from the SSGs, while marginally decreasing taxes paid in other towns. **This will impact Tinmouth, Wells, and Middletown Springs.**
 - “Scaling back the 3.5 percent enrollment decline ‘hold-harmless’ provision to 5 percent;” if “hold-harmless” had been rolled back to 5 percent in FY2010, taxpayer residents in 120 districts statewide would have seen increased property taxes. **This will impact Poultney, Wells, and Middletown Springs.**
 - “Paying a portion of the annual contribution to the Teachers Retirement Fund from the Education Fund, exclusive of costs associated with an accrued liability;” was under funded.
 - “Repealing the recently passed 100-percent funding provision for mainstream costs for state-placed students, returning to the 60/40 split,” having the effect of shifting costs to individual districts that are currently shared by taxpayers in order to provide relief to districts with disproportionately high special needs cost burdens. **This will impact Poultney.**
 - “Increasing the threshold for extraordinary special education costs from \$50,000 by an inflationary amount;” which has the effect of shifting costs to individual districts that are currently shared by taxpayers across the state in order to provide relief to districts with disproportionately high special needs cost burdens
- **Retirement Commission Update**
 - The Commission will recommend several changes to the Vermont State Teachers Retirement System (VSTRS) contributions and benefits. All of the changes, except one, would adversely impact at least some current and future employees.
 - recommend changes to the funding source for the employer contribution



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- (currently, the State's general fund)
- **Pension Benefit and Contribution Changes**
 - Normal retirement age increased from 62 or 30 years of service to either 65 years of age or the rule of 90 (add age + years of service)
 - calculated on an employee's highest earning five consecutive years of service, not his or her highest earning consecutive three years
 - Maximum final pension benefit with six additional years of employment required to earn the 60 percent benefit.
 - VSTRS members and the State share the burden of actuarially recommended contributions to the pension fund with approximately 55 percent State and 45 percent employee sharing ratio. State's contribution would remain in the 7.5 percent range
 - **Retiree Health Insurance Changes**
 - A tiered system so that degree of retiree premium assistance is linked to length of service
 - "Recapturing" one's health insurance benefit will require 20 years of service
 - Expect the shifting the funding source to the Education Fund will still be seriously considered by Legislators.
- **Committee on the Financing and Effectiveness of the Vermont Education System in the 21st Century to Issue Report**
 - Instructed "to examine potential improvements to the structure and funding of the Vermont educational system in light of the state's limited financial resources."
 - Decided on two areas for further legislative consideration:
 - Addressing the nature of the relationship between a supervisory union and its member districts by more clearly delineating the roles of each and creating a standardized statutory framework for the work of the supervisory union in the areas of special education services, centralized purchasing of goods and operational services, budgeting and accounting, and transportation services, among others. This emphasis will, at a minimum, require changes to 16 V.S.A. § 261a (supervisory union duties) and 16 V.S.A. § 242 (superintendent duties).
 - Addressing declining student enrollment in Vermont's public schools and the fact that much of the expense of education in Vermont is driven by labor and related costs. This would require each supervisory union to develop and implement policies regarding the minimum, maximum and optimal class sizes.
- **Education Transformation Policy Commission Issues Report**
 - Recommend a state policy framework that will build and enhance the capacity of schools and communities to reinvent Vermont public education so all students acquire the knowledge and skills needed for college, careers, and



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citizenship in the 21st century.

- **Education Quality Standards**
 - Supplement and replace the current School Quality Standards with “Education Quality Standards” that focus on learning outcomes and processes, to be developed by an EQS commission
 - Enhance accountability via long-range education quality assessments in each public school, and utilize data to continually develop more effective practice.
- **Learning Expectations for a New Generation**
 - Personal learning plans for each student
 - Three stages of learning progression (to replace PK-12 grades), and proficiency-based advancement and graduation requirements
 - Transition from grade-level groupings to multi-age small learning communities with differentiated learning opportunities
- **State-level PK-16 Partnerships**
 - PK-16 means prekindergarten through a four-year college
 - Establish ambitious state-level educational attainment targets and strategies to achieve these targets
 - Establish state-level standards for college readiness
 - Expand access and ensuring funding for dual enrollment and other college-level learning opportunities for high school students
- **Educator Quality**
 - Proficiency-based licensing standards for educators
 - Expand professional development and collaborative planning time for educators
- **Formation of Regional Education Districts**
 - *Education Redistricting Commission to facilitate consolidation of all public school districts (including all public schools and technical centers) into 12 – 24 education districts, each governed by a single board of directors*
 - Multi-year transition process to fully implement consolidation by 2015
 - **Each public school would have a “Community School Council,” with advisory functions**
- **Tax Commissioner Recommends Rate Increase; Warns of Narrowing Base**
 - Commissioner Westman recommended that the Legislature increase both the homestead and nonresidential statewide education property tax rates by 2.2 cents (\$0.022) for fiscal year 2011, to \$0.882 for homestead and \$1.372 for nonresidential property. The Tax Department is projecting that in fiscal year 2011 the grand list will increase only two percent before decreasing each of the next three years. As a result, Westman warned in his recommendation letter that the base rate may be



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pressured to increase by as much as 22 cents over a three-year period

- **Business-Education Alliance Reissues Recommendations**
 - Report titled “Vision, Goals, and Governance in Vermont’s Public Education System”
 - *Reconfigure the State Board of Education to include representatives from a variety of education practitioners, thus creating a more practical connection to issues in public education*
 - To elevate the position of commissioner of education to secretary of education appointed directly by the governor.

New Education Bills Introduced in 2010:

S.186 An act relating to requiring fiscal notes for all bills prior to the introduction of the bill

S.193 An act relating to public prekindergarten education programs, existing service providers, and property tax rates

S.209 An act relating to prohibiting the first student day of the academic year to occur before Labor Day

S.225 An act relating to the calculation of average daily membership in regional school choice agreements

S.240 An act relating to providing a financial incentive to encourage early secondary school completion

S.241 An act relating to mediation and administrative due process hearings concerning the provision of special education services

S.242 An act relating to ensuring a free and appropriate education for a child with a severe disability whose needs are best met at home

S.243 An act relating to the creation of six regional centers to provide lifelong support to individuals with autism spectrum disorders and their families and to the creation of a Vermont council on autism spectrum disorders

S.244 An act relating to creating a pilot regional center on autism spectrum disorders to serve Chittenden County

S.252 An act relating to creating regional school districts and no more than 16



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supervisory unions

S.253 An act relating to promoting parental rights within the special education process

S.254 An act relating to educator licenses and professional development

S.259 An act relating to the tuition to be paid by a designating school district

S.262 An act relating to insurance coverage for autism diagnosis and treatment

H.466 An act relating to the tuition to be paid by a designating school district