

Tinmouth School Board  
Official Minutes  
April 13th, 2009

Present were Helen Mango, Chair; Board member Kimberly Stewart. Also present were Susan McKelvie, Principal; Tom Gallagher, Superintendent; Gail Fallar, Town Treasurer; Cindy Taylor-Patch, community member; SU Switch Committee members Stan Wilbur and Doug Fontein; Nancy Birdsall, secretary.

Helen called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and made the formal motion to accept Anne Robbins resignation from the board with regret, thanking her again for her service.

**BOARD SEAT VACANCY**

As the first order of business, Helen moved to nominate Cindy Taylor-Patch to fill the vacant Board seat for the remainder of this year. Kimberly seconded, all approved. Motion carried. Cindy accepted the nomination and took the oath for Board members. She will also be serving on the RSWSU Finance Committee.

**SU SWITCH COMMITTEE**

Doug reported on his subcommittee and the meeting at Mill River. He spoke with principals from the three Mill River feeder schools, who shared with him opportunities that are collaborated between Mill River and Elementary schools. These include Odyssey of the Mind, Music in Our Schools, Wrestling, Dance, sports, Key Club meetings, Math Counts with Mr. Barker, and Jazz Band with Bear Irwin. Teachers from these schools meet to transition 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Gail suggested more can be done to help the 6<sup>th</sup> grade to 7<sup>th</sup> Mill River transition, regardless of whatever decision is made.

Stan reported that Grant has a five-page financial committee report. They determined that the student tuition would be higher at RSSU. Combined with the loss of Title I money, switching would be more expensive for Tinmouth. If there were overriding educational reasons to make the SU switch, then cost would be arguable. Helen expressed thanks to Stan and Grant for carefully examining and understanding the budgets.

Of the two reasons to consider switching SU's (financial and academic), the group concluded that more can be done to improve academics without having to switch. Helen asked for a brief written report to share with the community that summarizes the committee results and conclusions and expressed great appreciation for the work done. Stan suggested that the Tinmouth School Board support a move to merge the Rutland Southwest and Rutland South Supervisory Unions should such a merger become possible.

**MINUTES**

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Business Manager's Report:**

Louis sent a written report (attached page 6). Helen shared that Louis was incredibly helpful to the switch subcommittee in gathering and understanding financial information.

**Superintendent's Report:**

Tom provided a written report (attached page 5). In addition, Tom shared questions from Middletown and Ira regarding the impact of high school bill-backs on school budgets and recommended working together with the school boards from these towns and Danby (as suggested by Gail).

**Principal's Report:**

***2009-2010 Calendar for approval:***

There was a minor typographical correction to be made. Helen moved to approve the calendar with minor adjustments. Cindy seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

***Important upcoming dates:***

Living History – June 2-3  
Mill River move-up day – May 22<sup>nd</sup>  
End of year picnic – June 4  
Graduation – June 11

***Building and grounds:***

The roof leak seems to be flashing damage. It has been repaired and is now being monitored by John Cotrupi.

***Laptop Lease:***

New lease for 20 Apple laptops – payments will begin at the end of July.

***Crisis Team:***

A RSWSU Policy requires a local crisis team at the school. CPR/AED training was done, and Susan has created the School Town Assistance Team (STAT), which met 2-3 weeks ago. The team consists of Susan, Shirley Zandy, constables Bob Emerick and Ray LaMoria, Laurie Phillips, Dave Fox, Jimmy Wilborn, Marshall Squier, David Birdsall, and Hollis Squier. The purpose of STAT is to function as crisis support for the school. If Susan has to call 911 for security or injury, members of STAT can provide help before 911 arrives. In addition, if there is a non-911 emergency, STAT could provide assistance. The protocol and system for response should be ready by next week. The group also came up with some ideas for enhanced safety and response such as room numbers on the outside of doors, locks on classroom doors for lockdowns, and a communication system between office and classrooms.

***VSBA Study:***

Tom shared a document regarding the VSBA Phase I Governance Study Research Report done by the RSWSU in 2006.



## BILLS AND ORDERS

Gail presented the following warrants for the board to sign.

AP Warrants		
Warrant #	Date	Amount
16	03/16/09	\$14,994.75
17	03/30/09	\$33,862.62
18	04/13/09	\$16,709.14
Payroll Warrants		
Warrant #	Date	Amount
18	03/23/09	\$12,543.19
19	04/06/09	\$12,425.11

Gail shared state notification that the school received too much money from taxes – the school got the tax adjustment money and now owes the town about \$10,000.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Policies

The RSWSU System Management Committee will look at new Policies and review mandatory and non-mandatory. All policies will go to the Supervisory Union for first reading and then to member districts for first reading and possible adoption. Changes or notations from individual towns will go to the System Management Committee and then back to the SU for second reading and possible adoption. If not adopted, policies would need to come back to member schools for a second reading.

**Driver Education:** Helen recommends adding the following sentence at end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph:

*“The Tinmouth School Board shall review requests for funding driver education training courses on a case by case basis.”*

Helen moved to adopt the policy at first reading with the added sentence. Kimberly seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

**Residency:** The policy has received the 1<sup>st</sup> reading at SU level. Helen suggested editorial changes which Tom recorded. Helen moved to adopt the Residency policy with three editorial changes. Kimberly seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

**Policy on Policies:** The suggested Policy covers existing Policies A2 and A3 (as listed by the Vermont School Board Association). Helen would like to keep Policy A1 (The Role of Policy) as is. Helen had a few editorial changes which Tom recorded. Helen moved to accept Policy on Policies as amended. Cindy seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

***Policy for Instructional Assistants and Support Staff:***

Helen recommended getting rid of the outdated IA Practices (from 1993).

***IA Practices:***

Benefits were compared between area schools. The Board recommended keeping the current sick day policy.

Helen moved that the Board offer current IA's a 3% salary increase: Kimberly seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

When hiring new IA's for 2010 school year, Helen moved for a salary range from \$10.25/ hour for IA's with AA degrees and \$11.40/hour for IA's with BA degrees. Cindy seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

Helen moved that other non-teaching staff receive a 3% pay increase for the 2010 school year. Kimberly seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

Supportive Personnel practices will be warned for the next meeting.

Helen recommended postponing further Policy review to the next Board meeting in May. Tom will have Jan send all the information to Cindy.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009, 7:00 p.m., at the Tinmouth Elementary School.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn at 9:57 p.m. made by Helen, seconded by Kimberly. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Birdsall

## **Report of the Superintendent**

Tinmouth Update  
April 13, 2009

Louis and I met with Stan Wilbur and his associate. Louis did most of the work and is including his data in the board's report.

1. The legislature has a bill that would affect the Tinmouth School. The relevant details are as follows.

The Senate Education Committee has passed S. 127 which is a tuition payment/public high school tuition bill. This is also referred to as the "small schools bill". If it passes the full senate it will go to the House Education Committee.

A. For those districts that tuition high school grades or grades 7-12, S.127 would remove tuition payments from the formulas that determine the Act 82 Maximum Inflation Amount for the divided question, and excess spending penalty.

B S. 127 also allows school districts that tuition all students in high school or all secondary students to designate a public high school as the school for the district, provided the receiving school board accepts the designation. Currently this option is only open for independent schools.

1. If a district chooses to designate a secondary school, or if it is rescinded, all currently enrolled students (and the student's siblings) may remain enrolled at their current school at the district's expense.
2. Under this legislation a parent can enroll his or her child at a non-designated school, but the district will pay tuition amount not to exceed the lesser of the Statewide average announced union high school tuition or the tuition rate for the designated high school. Parents would have to pay any difference.
2. The House has introduced a bill (H326) that would require public schools to announce their tuition rates by December 8<sup>th</sup> rather than February 1<sup>st</sup>.

The human resources committee met on April 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss salaries and personnel performance reviews. I would be glad to share the items reviewed in executive session.

The systems management committee met on March 25<sup>th</sup>. Helen represented the Tinmouth Board at this meeting.

The Finance Committee is scheduled to meet on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6 P.M. in Wells.

**April 13, 2009**

**To: Tinmouth Board**  
**From: Louis Milazzo, Business Manager**  
**Re: Business Manager Report**

**3. Business Office meeting with Tinmouth's committee to switch SU's.**

Tom and I met with Stan Wilbur and his associate who are working on the financial side of Tinmouth's committee to research the positive and negative aspects of Tinmouth switching from Rutland Southwest to Rutland South Supervisory Union. We met on March 31<sup>st</sup> for approx an hour discussing the different financial impacts of being part of Rutland Southwest. I provided them with printouts of RSWSU's assessments, total ADM and info on how this information is calculated.

We discussed that Tinmouth does share the ITN positions and that even if Tinmouth did switch SU's that this is something that may be able to continue. RSWSU would contract these services to Tinmouth, if all parties were in agreement.

A large part of the discussions were concerning the grants that are received at the SU level.

21<sup>st</sup> Century – approx \$25-\$30K of funding is spent at Tinmouth  
IDEA-B – funding for this grant for FY09 is 265K, a portion of this goes towards SU admin charges, such as Bonnie's office, but approx 10% of the remaining funds is spent at Tinmouth

Title Grants – There are many programs that are offered at the SU level, available to all districts, such as professional development, Fast for Forward, Technology (Nick Striglia), etc. In addition to these SU wide expenses, Tinmouth's piece for direct expenses for FY09 was approx 30K. A majority of this was spent for K. Fredrick's salary.

These are all benefits that the current committee is unsure will be available to Tinmouth at Rutland South.

I informed them to feel free to send any questions my way, and that I will try and answer all questions to the best of my ability.