

Tinmouth School Board
Official Minutes
September 8, 2008

Present were Helen Mango, Chair; Board Members Anne Robbins and Lisa Patry. Also present were Susan McKelvie, Principal; Gail Fallar, Town Treasurer; Tom Gallagher, Interim Superintendent, Jonathan Czar, Secretary.

Helen called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

MINUTES

Helen moved to approve the minutes for August 4, 2008 (Regular and Continuation); and August 14, 2008 (Special). Lisa seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Superintendent's Report:

The policy committee is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, September 3rd at 4:30. I will include policies for your consideration.

The after school program is starting primarily due to the efforts of Susan McKelvie. The vendor withdrew from the contract less than a week before school opened. Susan took the lead on making sure the Tinmouth students were not penalized for the vendor's issues.

Years ago, Terry Ehrich of Bennington began the first day program. Terry was a North Bennington board member and owned Hemmings Motor News. Before he passed away he established a First Day Foundation to ensure its continued success. My visit to Tinmouth on the first day of school demonstrated exactly what he had in mind for community involvement in the schools. My compliments to all who were involved.

Tom Gallagher

Principal's Report:

a. Curriculum/Policy

Tom had asked Susan to share information regarding the textbooks used at Tinmouth. While *Everyday Math* is the only standard textbook, there are many other books and resources the teachers use in the classroom. A brief discussion followed regarding Living History being part of the curriculum and whether it should be a budget item as opposed to relying on donations.

b. Field Trip Policy/Procedures

Tom provided a list of field trip guidelines. Specifics regarding what determines who is allowed to attend and who is allowed to drive need to be worked out.

There is a new law that requires those driving on field trips to pass a background check. The Sheriff's department fee for the check is somewhere in the \$15-\$20 range. Helen suggested having the school cover the fee.

c. Budget

Susan asked the board about the allocation of funds regarding classroom supplies. The board verified that this is a line item in the budget and she has control over the allocation of those funds.

d. Events/Programs

The afterschool program has started. The teachers are Trudy Langer and Emily Bixby. Susan observed the first week to be fun, active, and well organized.

The programs during opening week went well. The upcoming Artist-in-Residence will be Jeremy Segar who will teach kite making and flying.

e. Contract Updates

Trudy's contract needed Lisa Patry's signature. The board is waiting for Zohara's contract. Tom said Sandy Cook should have two separate contracts for her work as a SLPA (Speech Language Pathology Assistant) and as an IA in Lisa Edge's classroom.

BILLS AND ORDERS

Gail presented the following warrants for the board to sign.

<i>Payroll Warrants</i>		
Warrant #	Date	Amount
1	07/29/08	\$827.78
2	08/12/08	\$9,170.57
3	08/26/08	\$9,326.51
4	09/08/08	\$15,379.37
<i>AP Warrants</i>		
Warrant #	Date	Amount
1	07/28/08	\$12,013.78
2	08/20/08	\$33,311.73

Gail reported a budget deficit of \$88,000. Approximately \$43,000 is attributed to billback from Mill River Union High School (GRADES 9-12), \$32,000 for SPED, and the rest for 7/8 grade and VoTech tuition. The big problem seems to be tuition rates to MRU that are actually higher than the announced tuition rate that the board receives.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Truancy Policy

The group discussed the need for a clear procedure for payment of tutoring services in the event a student is sick for an extended period of time.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is set for October 13th, 2008, 7:00 p.m. at the Tinmouth Elementary School. The next SU meeting is the 22nd in Wells.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Helen moved to go into Executive Session at 8:07 p.m. for contract discussions. Anne seconded, all approved. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jonathan Czar

CONTINUATION MINUTES

Motion to come out of executive session at 8:20 p.m. made by Helen, seconded by Lisa. Motion carried.

Motion to amend the contract of custodian Harold Buffum: Hours not to exceed 28 hours per week (as sole custodian). Motion made by Helen, seconded by Anne. Motion carried.

Motion to approve Claudia Catella as per diem substitute custodian as needed (not to exceed 8 hours per month) at an hourly wage of \$12.08. Motion made by Lisa, seconded by Helen. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn at 8:21 p.m. made by Anne, seconded by Lisa. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Helen Mango