

Tinmouth School Board
Official Minutes
September 13th, 2010

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

Helen called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

MINUTES

Helen moved to approve the minutes for August 9th, 2010 as amended. Kimberly seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Business Manager's Report

- Louis provided a verbal report and handed out a spreadsheet summarizing the cuts proposed by the state's "Challenges for Change" law. The cuts are strongly recommended by the legislature but not mandated. TES may use surplus funds from FY'10 to offset the proposed cuts; these funds were set aside at Town Meeting to help maintain budgets against possible increases in secondary education costs and other unanticipated expenses. As always, the School Board continues to operate in as fiscally responsible a manner as possible.
- Preliminary budget spreadsheets have been started for the first draft of the RSWSU budget which could be completed by October. Helen asked Louis for both a level funded and 2% increase draft for the TES budget so that both options can be discussed.

Superintendent's Report

Joan provided a written report (page 5). In addition, she thanked TES for hosting the opening in-service event. Recognition was given to all those working on policies – all required policies have been completed. PHS has won a broadband grant that will include Netbooks for student and faculty use. So that students will have the same opportunities in each of the SWSU schools, the SU is looking at Medicaid funding to provide Netbooks for Tinmouth 5th and 6th graders as well.

Principal's Report

Susan provided a written report (attached page 4). The group discussed measuring the success and progress of Tinmouth students.

Helen moved to accept the consent agenda, Kimberly seconded. All approved, motion carried.

RSWSU SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Systems Management – policies are up for adoption.
- HR – the next meeting is Sept 23rd..
- Finance - the next meeting is Sept 27th with a focus on the budget.

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
2	08/12/10	\$2,131.34
3	08/23/10	\$7,645.16
4	09/13/10	\$7,169.89
PR Warrants		
Warrant #	Date	Amount
3	08/16/10	\$9,155.91
4	08/30/10	\$12,510.53
5	09/13/10	\$13,089.76

NEW BUSINESS

- Susan informed the board about upcoming technology and computer needs.
- Helen shared some information and graphs on enrollment over the past 30 years. The data showed that while there are yearly changes in enrollment that can affect total enrollment by as much as 30% (up or down), and that the elementary-vs-secondary proportion shifts over the years, the long-term trend is for a fairly constant total enrollment averaging 97 students. There is no indication that Tinmouth is experiencing the declining enrollment faced by some other towns.

POLICIES - (DRAFT for input only)

- F-3 Search, Seizure and Interview of Students by School Personnel
- F-4 Search, Seizure and Interview of Students by Law Enforcement Personnel or Non-School Personnel
- F-120 Bullying (including Rubric)

Helen moved to adopt F-3, F-4, and F-120. Kimberly seconded. All approved.

PERSONNEL CONTRACT

- New Hires:
 - a) Shirl Harrington, Instructional Assistant
 - b) Erin Predom, After School Day Care
 - c) Jennifer Calvey, After School Day Care

Helen moved to approve the hiring of Shirl Harrington, Erin Predom, and Jen Calvey. Cindy seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

- Resignations: Sandra Eulian Cook (Instructional Assistant). The board acknowledged Sandra's resignation with regret.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be October 11th, 2010, 7:00 p.m., at the Tinmouth Elementary School.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Helen moved to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing negotiations and personnel. Seconded by Kimberly, all approved. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan Czar

CONTINUATION MINUTES

Helen moved to come out of executive session at 9:05 p.m. Seconded by Cindy. Motion carried.

No action taken.

Kimberly moved to adjourn at 9:05, seconded by Helen. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Helen Mango

Curriculum/Academics

a. Focus on Science and Integration of Technology for 2010-2011

Due to a change in focus at the local and supervisory union levels to improve instruction in Science and the integration of technology in the classroom, we have made the decision to alternate the yearly Living History curriculum with a Science theme. This year, our Science theme will focus on Health/Wellness/Nutrition. Our Personal Performance Projects this year will also become a venue to share our learning in science and technology. This theme will be integrated with our new Wellness Initiative and the new Health curriculum. More on this will be presented as the year progresses.

b. Wellness/Health Curriculum

Our new Wellness and Health programs have begun under the direction of our Wellness Coordinator, Tracey Tinsley. We have started the process of introducing students to fitness and nutrition concepts beginning with the very first day of school. Students from K -6 are setting personal fitness goals, documenting their steps daily with pedometers, and participating in daily fitness breaks. Our first Wellness Council meeting was held last Friday with a preliminary group to get the ball rolling. Our second meeting will be held this week and will include a parent and student representatives. There are many facets to this initiative and we are starting off the year with small, but significant steps. For example, today, after a mini-lesson in all-school roundup about food groups and what a healthy meal would look like on a plate, we began serving school lunches on plates instead of trays. This change will lead to further lessons/discussions regarding serving sizes and healthy portions. At our half-day inservice this Friday, we will be discussing and planning the implementation of our new Health curriculum, which will begin in October.

Building and Grounds

a. New sign, courtesy of Parents' Club

We have received a brand new school sign to be placed on the front of the building. Thanks to the PC for their generosity. It is beautiful.

b. Drainage landscaping around CC

Two contractors have been scheduled to give us a price on the gravel landscaping around the community center. We hope to have this completed before the snow falls.

c. Roof/gutter check pre-winter

The roofer has given a thumbs up to the roof and gutters for the winter season. We will not be replacing the old gutters on the north side of the building that were removed before painting this summer.

To: Tinmouth Board
From: Joan Paustian
Date: September 3, 2010

Comments:

- The VSA/ VSBA Conference will be held on Thursday and Friday – October 28th and 29th at Lake Morey Resort. The keynote speakers are typically very informing. The conference is always great. Many Board members attend that conference.
- Recognition of Years of Service was given to Board members as well as administrators, teachers and employees on the August 23rd inservice day. Board members with over 5 years of dedication to communities they serve was recognized and include:
 - Kathleen White – Ira – 14 years
 - Charity Downs – Wells – 11 years
 - Pat Davenport – Poultney – 10 years
 - Helen Mango – Tinmouth - 8 years
 - Mary Jo Teeter – Poultney – 8 years
 - Clarence Haynes – Middletown Springs – 7 years
 - Tracee Oakman Rupe – Poultney – 5 years

Please see the list below of administrators, teachers, and other folks recognized for their years of service.

- A Plaque is in the process of being engraved with the list of names below memorializing the years of service by dedicated folks. The plaque states “In recognition for years of dedicated service to the schools and communities within the Rutland Southwest Supervisory Union” and will have everyone’s name listed below on the plaque. The plaque will be hung in the foyer of RSWSU offices.
- Two University of Vermont Teachers of the Year were recognized on August 23rd as well. They are kindergarten and preschool teacher Lisa Edge of Tinmouth and Julia Chamberlain who is the preschool teacher at Middletown Springs. Both teachers will be also recognized at a lovely celebration at UVM on October 20th. Each supervisory union is able to nominate 2 teachers yearly for this recognition.
- Susan Hayes, formerly of the DOE and now from West Ed (an educational think tank organization) and Noel Bryant of the DOE presented the research findings documented in “Roots of Success: Effective Practices in Vermont’s Schools”. The research was done on three Vermont schools that made significant gains in student performance levels despite their high poverty rates. Eight critical characteristics were identified as key elements to their success. A culture where all faculty and staff **believe that failure is not an option** and that **they (teachers and staff) have the power to make the difference** (not blaming the family, poverty, etc)
- Feed back on opening day is a most critical element. Following the presentation of the

findings, Susan and Noel took the teachers through an activity where they assessed their beliefs about where their school fell on the continuum of the critical characteristics and then mapped their findings. Folks were asked to complete two short exit questions, which Susan is compiling now. Folks really got the message we wanted them to take away from the morning: Teachers must set their expectations so that all students are doing high quality work and that failure for any student is not an option and secondly, that all adults need to believe that all students have the ability to achieve high expectations because the adults will do whatever is necessary to ensure that all children have the ability to be successful.

- Jay LaMora has been in all schools and met with all teachers. He is beginning to work with teachers this week. At this time, he is in each of our schools one day per week. He has his office in PHS because there was a space for him there. Teachers are excited to have the opportunity to have Jason work with them to integrate the content they teach with technology tools that will motivated the students to want to produce high quality work.
- As part of the E VT Broadband Technology Grant that the Town of Poultney has been awarded, Poultney Elementary School will get enough Dell Netbooks with preloaded software for every fifth and sixth grade student and teacher from Digital Wish. These are more powerful than other models. Students will be expected to use the tools throughout their day as well as take the netbooks home for homework and to have parents be able to communicate with the school. Fifth and sixth grade teachers will be trained by Eric Bird from Digital Wish on the use of the netbooks who will also give teachers a number of content area activities targeting 21st century outcomes. I have asked if Jay LaMora can be trained so that he can teach all our fifth and sixth grade teachers the same information. In addition, I asked Eric if we could purchase enough of these netbooks for the fifth and sixth graders and teachers at Tinmouth, Wells, and Middletown Springs. There are funds built into Middletown Spring’s budget and we could use Medicaid funds for Wells and Tinmouth. In this way, all of our fifth and sixth graders across the SU will have the same opportunities as those students at PES. In addition, we’ll be able to have students communicating and working on collaborative projects together.

Employees with Fifteen or More Yrs in RSWSU
(Effective June 30, 2010)

PSD

<u>Name</u>	<u>Current Position</u>	<u>Years in District/SU</u>
Baker, Chris	PHS-Teacher	42 Years (Teacher – PHS)
VanGuilder, Jima	PES-Teacher	36 Years (Teacher – PHS)
Colomb, Susan	PES-Teacher	36 Years (Teacher – Ira Central School and PES)

Capman, Maureen	PHS-Teacher Yrs)	34 Years (Teacher - 12 Yrs, PHS; Para __
Jurnak, Gary	PHS-Teacher	33 Years (Teacher – PHS)
MacDonald, Margaret (Margo)	PES-Teacher	33 Years (Teacher – PES)
Harmon, Michele	PHS-Teacher	30 Years (Teacher – PHS)
Towne, Cecelia	PES-Teacher	31 Years (Teacher – PES)
Capman, David	PHS-Teacher	37 Years (Teacher PES/PHS)
Jones, Kathleen	PHS-Para	27 Years (Para – PHS)
Lyons, Rick	PES-Teacher	27 Years (Teacher – PES)
Moyer, Tammy	PES-Executive Asst	26 Years (Exec Asst – PHS/PES)
Keagy, Donald	PHS-Teacher	26 Years (Teacher – PHS)
Paquette, Linda	PHS-Teacher 8 Yrs)	26 Years (Teacher – PHS 18 Yrs; Para – PES
Roberts-Burke, Elizabeth	PES-Teacher	24 Years (Teacher – PES)
Rudnicki, Linda	PES-Teacher Yrs)	23 Years (Teacher – PES 11 Yrs; Para – PES 12
Martelle, Kyleen	PHS-Teacher	22 Years (Teacher – PHS)
Gardyne, David	PHS-Teacher	21 Years (Teacher – PHS)
Linher, Susan	PES-Teacher	18 Years (Teacher – PES)
Lynch, Pat	PES-Para	18 Years (Para – PES)
Godfrey, Sally	PES-Teacher	18 Years (Teacher – PES)
Kahill-Brown, Maureen	PES-Teacher	17 Years (Teacher – PES)
Harrington, Keith	PES-Teacher Yrs)	16 Years (Teacher – PES 14 Yrs; Pars – PES 2

TSD

Name

Current Position

Years in District/SU

Kay, Karen	TSD-Teacher PES/MSD 3 Yrs)	26 Years (Teacher – TSD 23 Yrs; Para
Kahle, Allyn	TSD-Teacher	16 Years (Teacher – TSD)

WSD

<u>Name</u>	<u>Current Position</u>	<u>Years in District/SU</u>
O’Leary, Linda	WSD Principal	30 Years (Principal MSD/WSD; Teacher – WSD 10 Yrs (1Yr PES/WSD combined)
Martindale, Wilma	WSD-Cook	17 Years (Cook – WSD)
Ploof, Sheila	WSD-Para	16 Years (Para – WSD)
Birbeck, Karin	WSD – Teacher	15 Years (Teacher - MSD/WSD)

MSD

<u>Name</u>	<u>Current Position</u>	<u>Years in District/SU</u>
Lantman, Sherry	MSD-Teacher	21 Years (Teacher – MSD 17 Yrs; Para 4 Yrs)
Wilkins, Lorraine	MSD-Teacher	21Years (Teacher – MSD/WSD/RSWSU)
Austin, Netta	MSD- Para	16 Yrs (Para – EEE/MSD)
Carr, Kim	MSD/TSD-Para Library Para)	16 Yrs (5 WVS Para/Interpreter; 11 MSD)

RSWSU

<u>Name</u>	<u>Current Position</u>	<u>Years in District/SU</u>
Dente, Jan	Admin Asst	20 Years (Admin Support – RSWSU)
Tinsley, Tracey	SU-Teacher	17 Years (Teacher – RSWSU)
Kinney, Sheri	SU-Teacher	18 Years (Teacher – RSWSU)