

TSB Minutes
@ Townshend Elementary School
12-14-09-Draft
7:00 p.m.

Present: David Dezendorf, Craig Hunt, Kristina Wright, Jessie Bishop, Members of the Board, Steven John, Superintendent, Deborah Leggott, Principal, Kris Jerz, Barbara Bedortha, Joyce Berry, April Chase, Toni Dezendorf, Beth Cutts, Kim Liebow, Heidi Russ, Deidre Beattie, Paula Newton, Megan Richardson, Kurt Tietz, Tammy Claussen, Joe Winrich, Members of the Public, Judy Hawkins, Recorder

Absent: Kathy Hege

Call to Order: David called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes for November 23, 2009: Craig made a motion to approve the minutes of November 23, 2009. No discussion. Motion carried.

Additions and Deletions: None

Members of the Public: See under Correspondence

Bills and Purchase Orders: David made a motion to pay the bills and purchase orders as follows: Payroll PO #37 \$19,919.69, corrected new amount \$18,996.19, approve Payroll PO #37A-negative \$2,308.75 (due to board overpayment). Payroll PO #39 \$1,385.25 (new PO for payment of school board) Payroll PO #38 for \$6,110.79 was voided (due to board overpayment). Payroll PO #40 \$5,957.79, and Vendor Warrant PO #41 \$5,794.57. Discussion: David asked about re-key of 6 keys for the music room. Deborah said they did not re-key, they repaired. Motion carried to pay bills and purchase orders as read.

Principal's Report: Deborah presented her report via e-mail. Couple of additions. Kathy asked Deborah to get a list of required policies and present to the board, which Deborah did. She is going to hold onto them as Kathy Hege was not present. Deborah spoke about the letter from Otter Creek re: meeting that was held concerning the UV system. All of the options that were presented are unacceptable and we firmly believe it is not the school's responsibility to remedy what we consider to be a manufacturing defect. **Map testing:** Grades K,1 & 2 are in the process of completing testing in reading, math and language literacy. **TES Newspaper:** Dan DeWalt has met with students (K-6) for the past 6 weeks on Thursdays and the writing for articles is well underway. **H1N1 Immunization:** The next round of H1N1 shots will be on December 14th at 8:30 a.m. **Kitchen:** To date we are \$1,600.00 ahead of last year in breakfast and lunch reimbursement funds. **Building and Grounds: Water Disinfection System:** The right hand side of the system has been turned off because of

multiple red lights and the alarm coming on recently. The left side is displaying green lights. Tyler Billingsley has been contacted. **Programmable Thermostat:** The front hall now has a digital thermostat which has been set so that the weekend and night settings are lower than weekdays. **Air handler/Circulator:** This has been turned back on to warm the incoming air. **Energy Efficiency Projects Grant:** Completion of the electrical panel which controls 4 zones of the new boilers and the air handler circulator may be funded by an energy efficiency grant being applied for by Frank Rucker on behalf of the Townshend School.

Superintendent's Report: Steven presented his report via e-mail. No discussion.

Craig made a motion to take the agenda out of order and go to Correspondence: Motion carried.

Correspondence: a. Suggestions for budget cuts from public. David read the four suggestions received from the public: 1: Suggest to the Townshend School Board that they discuss an early retirement buy-out package that could be offered to teachers. If the School Board were to offer a one-time check of \$10,000 to any teacher willing to retire, this might be enough incentive to solve its problem of cutting a teacher. Wondering if the school board has considered buying out a teacher's contract. There are at least 2 teachers who could retire? 2. Move to a half day kindergarten program savings of \$34,066. 3. Reduce Principal's contract by 1/5th. To 4 out of 5 days or 32 out of 40 hours week. 1/2 day of Library savings of \$6,000, 1/2 day of music \$6,000 Total Reduction proposal of \$61,748. 4. Make kindergarten a half day program, like many of the other schools in the area. I'm recommending this idea for several reasons, but my main reason is that the State of Vermont does not require it's students to attend kindergarten, it's mainly socialization, which they could adequately receive in a half day program. David D. presented the following proposal: Enrichment entire line \$5,000, Educational trips entire line \$5,000, Music-instrumental (entire line) \$19,010.00, Guidance \$24,435.00, 1/2 Music (non-instrumental) \$6,000, 1/2 Class Room Supplies \$5,500, 1/3 Library (7.65 FICA included) \$5,18.45, 1/5 Physical Education \$6,450.80, Non-Master Agreement salaries under \$40,000 receive 3% increase -\$52.11 Non-Master Agreement salaries over \$40,000 receive no increase 0 Total Reduction: \$76,472.14. A long discussion ensued. David mentioned the bus isn't included in the budget. David asked the board for their input: Suggestions from the board are: Kristina would like to look into a buy out. Steven was asked what this would look like if this were to happen. Steven will report back to the board with his findings. Craig said these suggestions that David came up with are final and won't come back. Steven presented a new budget for the board to review. Steven recommended a Reduction in Force and not cutting the other things.

Old Business:

- a. Finalization of the 2011 budget for town meeting. –This will be addressed on December 28, 2009.

- b. Unconfirmed policy approval dates-re-warning schedule for those policies: Steven was asked to send to the board before next meeting and determine which ones they want to address and where they will fit on the calendar.
- c. Chimney repair update: Deborah has one verbal quote from Bill Newcomb which was roughly \$18-\$22,000.

New Business:

- a. Grant proposal: Frank and Deborah worked on a grant. Initial application and grant is \$35,000 and we will be requesting \$31,000. The grant is for replacing and repair of the circulation and air handler system. A lengthy discussion ensued.
- b. Discussion of Town Meeting Warning for the school: The warning for Town Meeting was distributed. A discussion ensued. Craig made a motion to accept the warning as written. Motion carried.

Committee Updates:

- a. Executive/Super Board-December 9, 2009 WCSU meeting-at that meeting they passed the Superintendent and SPED budget. Superintendent's Evaluation will be worked on in January. WCSU Board of Directors approved the Strategic Plan with the following correction: addition of student leaders.
- b. Policy: None
- c. Technology-Erate 471 has been filed. 70% reimbursement in FY 11. (this is expected).

Correspondence:

- a. Suggestions for budget cuts from public: See above

Upcoming Meetings:

- a. Board meeting on December 28th? - The meeting will be held on December 28th at 7:00 p.m. at TES.

Executive Session if needed-Personnel contractual issue-

Craig MOVED to enter executive session to discuss personnel contractual issues. The motion carries and the Townshend School Board entered executive session at 8:45 with Principal Deborah Leggott and Superintendent Steven John.

David MOVED to leave executive session at 9:04 PM. The motion carried.

No resolution at this time.

David MOVED to adjourn. By unanimous consent the motion carries and the

Townshend School Board meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Judy Hawkins
Recorder

DRAFT