

TOWNSHEND SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
@ TOWNSHEND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
6-8-15-DRAFT
7:00 PM

Present: Cliff Passino, Brud Sanderson, Deidre Beattie, Al Claussen, Members of the Board, Steven John, Superintendent, Vincent DeBonis, CFO, WCSU, Deborah Leggott, Principal, Judy Hawkins, Recorder

Guest: Emily Long

Absent: April Chase

Call to Order: Al called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm.

Additions and Deletions: Addition to the Agenda: Treasurer and financial reports: Al asked to add Internal Financial Controls and borrowing for Current Expense Note and Tax Anticipation Note

Members of the Public: Emily Long

Consent Calendar:

- a. Principal's report:
- b. Superintendent's report
- c. Minutes for May 11, 2015.

No superintendent's report. Steven gave a verbal superintendent's report: Deputy Secretary of Education will be at L&G tomorrow. He will see how the collaborative peer review has gone. Steven said he will be focusing with the boards concerning H361. Executive Session tips-Steven distributed a copy to each board member. Steven has documents pertaining to the H361 for a later discussion in this meeting. Steven reported that the Professional Bargaining Unit meeting will be held this Thursday and contracts will be issued after the meeting takes place.

The consent calendar was approved unanimously.

Treasurer and Financial Reports: Vincent presented the end of year figures. Current Expense Note: This year we will have to borrow \$165,000. Adopt a Resolution based on cash flow projections ending for June 30, 2015. Brud made a motion to approve

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borrowing a current expense note in the amount of \$165,000 from the People's Bank at an interest rate of 1.15%. Motion carried unanimously. The board signed the 3 documents needed.

Tax And Revenue Anticipation Note: Brud made a motion to approve borrowing a tax and revenue anticipation note in the amount of \$400,000 from the People's Bank at an interest rate of 1/28. Motion carried unanimously. The board was given the documents to sign.

Vincent reported to the board that Brad James presented a preliminary document limitation regarding how much your budget can grown in 2017, (\$10,433.00)

Bills and Purchase Orders: Al made a motion to pay the bills and purchase orders as follows: Payroll PO#70 \$18,939.71, Payroll PO#71 \$11,715.99, Payroll PO#72 \$18,694.60, Payroll PO#73 \$8,265.36, and Vendor Warrant PO #74 \$7,025.10. No discussion. Brud abstained. Motion carried to pay the bills and purchase orders as read with one abstention.

Reports of Administration and Committees: None

Unfinished Business and General Orders:

- a. Question: Is the last day of school, June 18th, a half day-Deborah said it will be a half day.
- b. Update on Michael Kolsun's liability waiver. Deborah presented the document for the board's review. Board approved and gave back to Deborah.

New Business:

- a. Review and discussion of the Education Bill with our representative, Emily Long. Act 46, H361. Emily came to give a review of the new bill. She said the decision was made fairly early on that all things could not be tackled all at once. Property Tax Rates: Push for cost containment concerning this issue. Townshend and L&G are on the first page of report because they are high spenders. You are allowed to spend what you want but you will be penalized if you overspend. You will get double taxed on anything you overspend. Emily said this will be a real challenge. This does go on per pupil instead of spending total.

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Emily wants to make sure we have a voice and to get a chance to say what you want your school system to look like, etc. There are still some RED incentives but they do go away each year. For 5 years you will get a reduction in your tax rate if you take these incentives. We all have to offer the same governance operation. A lengthy discussion ensued. Steven spoke about other boards Wardsboro did not comply with isolation previously. Windham will be considered isolation, transportation, efficiency, somewhat high performing. There is no school in the WCSU district that can claim they don't have capacity for students. Al asked what is the benefit of some of these far away districts coming together-Emily said it is to provide opportunities around staffing, students to be able to move around, she thinks there are some serious efficiencies around this model.

Brud feels it will be difficult to get a large group together to work on this issue.

Al asked what would it look like for K-6 if we share the teachers we currently have with these other schools this is if we went with the 5 school option-Steven will get this information for the board. Emily encouraged the board members to contact her if they have any questions, they can call her, e-mail her, etc. If you have a question writes it down.

- b. Potential joint meeting in Jamaica on July 21st to discuss implications of H.361 (Education Bill) with revised cost-benefit analysis of Townshend-Jamaica merger from our WCSU CFO: Vincent will not be able to attend on the 21st of July and possibly Cliff won't be able to attend.
- c. Support staff contract information: Deborah presented data concerning the support staff benefits proposal. We currently have 6 Para-educators this year, 1 Para is leaving, another working on ½ year schedule. The law says the decision was made to have the 4 remaining Para-educators be under WCSU and will be in the union, she would like to take part of the contract and offer part to support staff here at TES. Proposal for next year is as follows: Single Health Benefit (full time), sick days (11), unused, rolls over to next year, accumulating up to 50 days, personal days (3) and holidays calendar employee July 4, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, MLKing Day, and Memorial Day. A lengthy discussion ensued. Cliff made a motion to approve the revised benefits package for the support staff. Motion carried.
- d. 14 Policy-Non-Licensed Personnel-rescind the policy. Deborah will warn this policy to be rescinded. Cliff made a motion to rescind the D14 Policy-Non-Licensed Personnel Benefits Policy. Motion carried.

Deborah distributed the vacation schedule for Randy, Heidi and Deborah for the summer.

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Correspondence: None

Upcoming Meetings

- a. TES School Board Meeting, joint meeting with Jamaica at July 21st at 6:30 p.m.
- b. Action Planning Committee, June 10th at 3 pm
- c. Executive Committee Meeting June 17th at 7 pm at TES, filmed by BCTV

Executive Session: None

Adjourn: Cliff made a motion to adjourn at 10:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Hawkins
Recorder