

TOWNSHEND SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

@ TOWNSHEND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

6-12-17-draft

7:00 pm

Present: Eric Scott, Shawn O'Dou, Al Claussen, Kristina Wright, Cliff Passino, Members of the Board, Deborah Leggott, Principal, Bill Anton, WCSU Superintendent, Abby Dillon, WCSU Special Education Director, Judy Hawkins, Recorder

Guest: Heidi Russ, Bethany Barton, Julie Dolan and Stephanie Betit-Hancock

Call to Order: Al called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Additions and Deletions: None

Members of the Public: Nothing to report.

Consent Calendar: a. Principal's Report
b. Superintendent's Report
c. Minutes for May 8, 2017

Al thanked Deborah for a wonderful last principal's report.

Highlights of Superintendent's Cabinet Report: On June 26th the designee for the Secretary of Education Senator Rebecca Balint will be coming to open up the meeting (WRMUUSD). The group will officially form at that time. Al and Joe Winrich will be on the committee. The District Management Group have completed their audit for instructional purposes. They went over each page with Bill and Stephanie. . We are in the middle of negotiations and are hoping to work toward a resolution in the near term. Bill attended the Vermont Superintendent's Association Spring Conference and the focus was on implicit bias.

Eric made a motion to approve the consent calendar. Motion carried.

Treasurer and financial reports: Incumbents will be about \$40,000.

Bills and Purchase Orders: Al asked for a motion to approve the bills and purchase orders as follows: Pay Order #70 \$16,391.45, Pay Order #71 \$10,787.03, Pay Order #72 \$16,063.89, Pay Order #73 \$6,972.81, and Vendor Warrant PO # 74 \$11,047.81. Cliff made a motion to approve the bills and purchase orders as read. No discussion. Motion carried.

Reports of Administration and Committees: June 13, 2017 at 7 pm Special Town Meeting. There will be 1 Article. Elect the representative to the L&G Board. It has been warned.

Unfinished Business and General Orders:

- a. Special Annual Meeting to elect Townshend Reps for L&G Board.

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New Business:

- a. Deborah's last meeting: Al thanked Deborah for her 21 years of service.
- b. Special Education: Over the last 4 or 5 years we have seen a lot of sky rocketing of special ed students and what has happened, what are we doing to address this. Al said one thing he can see is that the pendulum has swung a little bit. Is the classroom now swinging toward the regular ed students? Abbie said about 8 years ago the Dept. of Ed wanted to see all the kids in the classroom at least 80% of the time. There are too many kids being pulled out of the rooms for various reasons. This year 55 initial evaluations were done and only 3 did not qualify. Townshend was down, L&G was the highest with Dover being next. The need for 1-1 paras has a greater need. There needs to be a better way of doing this. The administrators at this summer's Retreat will be addressing these issues. Townshend will have a full time special educator next year, she knows both the behavior and academics piece. She feels being here full time will give her an opportunity to address the problem right away. The other thing is the district management said they need the resources for behavior problem kids. They are also talking about helping teach teachers. They are also looking at partnering with other schools to share resources. Al said he is seeing students, staff getting stressed out. Al asked what can we do to help the above group: Julie and Deborah visited Irvin, they have a space, they have a special educator, etc. Principal at Irving said he created a sensory room, OT, PT, psychologist, every specialist owned by the building. Only public school in the district that has its own program. The difference is that they had everything right there and could handle whatever issue came up. Heidi R asked about the struggles on the para level. Suggestion from her would be to have all paras go to workshop on trauma, autism, etc. Abbie feels they should be going to Kelly, special educator at WSCU, etc. Stephanie feels starting her new position, where are the kids with the most significant issues, inclusion, need to find a good balance that works for everyone, make sure you have the resources you need, have a task force, meet with the principals, etc. Bill wanted some clarification from the group, it feels like it has been a gradual point and has caused frustration. Looking for a response to the situation you face, keep the board informed. Collaboration is very important. Don't talk over each other, listen to one another. Bill suggests at other schools when board creates a problem it will be put on the principal's report and it will be an ongoing process.
- c. New Principal: Signed a contract as long as the board, hiring committee, current principal, etc. approve. Teachers articulated what they wanted for a match, etc. Al has met him Craig Roach is the new principal he is at Green Street School. He is young, great experience, lots of skills, he is a 5th grade teacher, ran the Boston Marathon, wonderful tech background, interested in writing grants. Cliff made a motion to offer a contract to Craig Roach as principal of Townshend Elementary School. Motion carried.

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Correspondence: Al presented the Grace Cottage Flow Report for May 2017 no problem. Was given to Deborah to file.

Upcoming Meetings:

- a. TES Board Meeting, July 24th 2017 7 pm
- b. Special Townshend Meeting June 13, 2017, 7 pm at L&G gym
- c. WRMUUSD Meeting, June 26, 2017 7 pm @ L&G

Executive Session: Nothing available at this time.

Adjourn: Nothing available at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Hawkins

Recorder