

Tamworth School Board

1. Call to Order

A meeting of the Tamworth School Board was held at the Kenneth A. Brett School on Wednesday, October 8, 2008 at 5:32PM. The meeting was called to order by Lisa Remick. Present were Gwen Poirier, Pat Kehoe, Noel DeSousa, Kathi Brown, Lisa Remick, Laura Pike, Brenda Robinson, and Dan Rowe. Dana Littlefield arrived at 5:40PM.

2. Approval of Agenda

Brenda Robinson made a motion to approve the agenda. Dan Rowe seconded the motion. Motion passed.

3. Approval of Minutes (September 10, 2008; September 30, 2008)

Brenda Robinson made a motion to approve the minutes of September 20, 2008. Dan Rowe seconded the motion. Motion passed. Laura Pike abstained from the vote.

Laura Pike made a motion to approve the minutes of September 30, 2008. Dan Rowe seconded the motion. Motion passed.

4. Energy Topics

a. Woodfuels

The committee has not yet met. Dan Rowe, Don Harte and Noel DeSousa will serve on the committee. They would also like a person familiar with heating. This will be kept on the agenda for updates.

5. Director of Special Services Update

Pat Kehoe presented and went over her report. She thanked the board again for taking in a tuition student. A handout was given to board members regarding learning disabilities that she would like them to read and become aware of. It can be updated as we go along.

6. Education Views ¾ Team

Karl Nordlund and Gail Costello spoke regarding the looping process and that it is very positive and they really see the change in the kids in 4th grade. Team teaching allows them to work with all the kids in the grade. The science program has been updated with hands on activities which are more fun for everyone. This quarter it is the human body and systems they are learning. Gail Costello is also using a buddy program for older and younger kids which are good for both grades. In social studies

they are studying government and will be visiting the state house. 6 traits program is being used for writing. Trophies is the reading program that is in place. Matt Krug could not be here tonight. NECAP's work best when they are done right away.

7. Visitor's Comments

Kathi Brown told about the PTA program 3 for me that they are doing. It is trying to get members to volunteer 3 hours per year helping out the school to see what a difference it can make.

Pat Farley inquired about the number of kids in the 3rd and 4th grade that are looping and also inquired about the status of the website, which is under construction.

8. Committee Reports

a. SAU 9/13 Committee

Dan Rowe and Charlie Pugh met with the SAU9 about the offer of consolidation, and let them know that they need to develop a justification for this. It is ongoing and Carl Nelson will send Gwen Poirier a report shortly.

b. Strategic Planning Committee

An e-mail was sent out to seven schools comparable to ours and three have been returned. Mark Joyce gave a quote for consultation between \$2,000. and \$11,000. for a range. The next meeting is set for October 28, 2008.

c. Committee Reports

Joint area board. No Tamworth representative has been there recently and we need representation. Let Gwen Poirier know if you are not able to go. The next meeting is in January.

9. Old Business

a. Policy JICJ Communication Devices – Adoption

Brenda Robinson made a motion to accept the policy. Dan Rowe seconded the motion. Laura Pike pointed out a grammatical error that needed fixing. The motion passed.

b. Teacher Job Description – Adoption

Brenda Robinson made a motion to accept the policy. Laura Pike seconded the motion. The motion passed.

c. Energy Policy – Second Reading

Brenda Robinson made a motion to get the policy on the floor. Laura Pike seconded the motion. Motion passed. Gwen Poirier pointed out the change she made in number 1 by putting 65 degrees in parenthesis. Noel DeSousa is putting thermometers in the rooms. Laura Pike would like to add a number 7 regarding the exploration of alternative renewable energy options when possible. Dan Rowe wants

to see a footnote on the reports, if possible, to show the number of gallons of fuel used each month. Bring this back next month.

d. Student Wellness Policy - Second Reading

Brenda Robinson made a motion to get the policy on the floor. Dan Rowe seconded the motion. Motion passed. Jack Waldron spoke on behalf of the wellness committee and spoke about the salsa that the kids made and enjoyed. Kim Grace has information regarding a \$15,000.00 grant to promote healthy eating, a student kitchen, or greenhouse. Noel DeSousa stated that the board must approve a grant before going ahead with it. Recycling bins in each classroom for awareness building. Looking into some sort of taste test with local apples. Getting a survey to teachers to see what help they need to promote health and wellness. Try to provide more organic choices. Noel DeSousa and Marilyn Prive work together to make some calls on certain ideas regarding foods. Dan Rowe feels that the board should get involved if we need more costly foods. Laura Pike would like to see a section that points out the board's responsibilities in monitoring the costs. People have to be certified to prepare food. Some certification is free. Noel DeSousa feels that balancing the food budget should not be the first policy, healthy eating should be.

e. School Board Goals 2008-2009

Brenda Robinson made a motion to move the goals provided in the packet. Dana Littlefield seconded the motion. Brenda Robinson wants to know where the board members stand on this. Dan Rowe says these goals are not measurable or challenging, and that it does not set standards. Brenda Robinson thinks that these goals are measurable. Motion passed as provided. Dan Rowe opposed the motion

f. School Board Ethics

Gwen Poirier stated that this should be reviewed annually. Brenda Robinson made a motion to approve the policy. Laura Pike made a second. Motion passed.

10. New Business

a. Learning Disability Policy - First Reading

Pat Kehoe already discussed this earlier.

b. NHSBA Resolutions

The next meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2009. Discussion took place as to who the representative for the board is. It is believed that it is Laura Pike. October 24th is the timeframe for a draft for resolution if the board wants to.

11. Superintendent's Report

a. Expenditure Report

The month's report was handed out.

b. Other

Gwen Poirier and Noel DeSousa attended a law conference about drug awareness, which was very informative. Laura Pike wondered if they spoke about the effect that

the internet has on drug use and it was not addressed at the conference, but Lisa Remick was able to enlighten everyone about it. Gwen Poirier spoke about the SAU reorganization meeting, the collective bargaining meeting and the evergreen clause, and the teacher evaluations. She spoke about the aimsweb training and thanked Charlie McNevich and Noel DeSousa for their support in setting up the laptops. There were handouts in the packets about the area joint board. The leadership will be working on job descriptions and the guidance counselor is next.

Dan Rowe would like to monitor statistics on our kids at Kennett. Gwen Poirier now gets reports on discipline and attendance. Mary Anne Smith has gone up to Kennett to discuss some issues for being a representative. Dan Rowe wonders if the guidance counselor should be combined for two or three schools. Brenda Robinson stated that we need a full time guidance counselor who also works with the families. Laura Pike would like to see the guidance counselor go to Kennett and be able to access our student records with reporting coming from Noel DeSousa or Gwen Poirier. Noel DeSousa says we should be able to get attendance, discipline, progress reports, report cards, and student drop out information. Laura Pike and Dan Rowe feel that the criteria needs to be determined as to what we need and what time basis.

12. Principal's Report

a. Monthly Update

Attic Insulation will be taken care of later this month or the first week in November. It will take 3-4 days to complete. There is a freeze on field trips right now so we have that money that was budgeted help pay for heating costs. Some programs will be brought into the school. The PTA is going to have an auction to help pay for field trips and enrichment programs. If it is done right, it can raise several thousand dollars.

21st Century Grant. Noel DeSousa feels that we can again qualify for this grant based on our free and reduced lunch numbers. He will speak with Conway and Ossipee to see how their grants run. Right now the board members feel that they do not want to go after this grant again unless something is very different this time regarding money and the director's position.

Noel DeSousa will be traveling to Washington, D.C. this weekend to scout out next year's eighth grade class trip. Don Harte wanted to know who is paying for this trip and Noel DeSousa is paying for the trip himself.

Dan Rowe wants to know why/what happened to the 15 kids who left our school since the end of last year.

13. Visitor's Comments

Don Harte likes the auction as a way to involve the town to help make a difference in their taxes as it is a way to cut costs.

Is there any information on the Jesse Lyman issue. It will be addressed later tonight.

14. Board Comments

Lisa Remick suggested that the board members come to the open house along with community members. She stated that the Harlem Wizards will be starting off red ribbon week which is a national program that has been going on for 23 years now. The variety show coming up is always a fun night and it gets the kids excited. The PTA meeting is the 1st Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm. She was also impressed with everything about the open house she attended at Kennett High.

Laura Pike has bins available, if we want them, for recycling plastic bags. Laura will connect with Heather Booska on this to set it up.

15. Communications

a. Attorney Boynton

Gwen Poirier went to a meeting on oil market pricing, then consulted with Jay Boynton. It would cost us 80 cents a gallon to get out of the contract with Jesse Lyman. Budget freezes and insulation will help cover the cost of heating. Dana Littlefield talked about the delivery after the contract expired and them capping off at a different price. Dan Rowe wants to know the numbers they charged us for capping off, and he feels that Gwen Poirier did not have legal authority to negotiate the contract. This was addressed in the letter from Jay Boynton regarding past practices. Dan Rowe is not ready to put this issue aside as he felt the boards intention was to tough it out and see what the alliance had to offer. Laura Pike wants numbers to be able to discuss with Lyman's about the capping off of the tank and present costs. She feels it was unethical behavior to top off the tanks in this manner and what would the community reaction will be. Dan Rowe feels they may change their mind remembering that they are looking at future business. Laura Pike wants to know how much was filled at the capping off time and the price along with the price agreed upon and what was credited to our account. Dan Rowe and Laura Pike will represent the board in talking with Jesse Lyman to see what the situation is and to try and answer some of the questions. They will meet before the next board meeting and report back then.

16. Non-Public Session

RSA 91 - A: 3 II a, b, c, d, e

At 7:30PM, Brenda Robinson made a motion to go into Non-Public Session. Dana Littlefield seconded the motion. Motion passed. At 7:47 Dana Littlefield made a motion to go out of Non-Public Session. Laura Pike seconded the motion. Motion passed.

17. Action as a Result of Non Public Session

Dana Littlefield made a motion to accept the bid from Forst Trans LLC for snowplowing for the 2008-2009 season. Laura Pike seconded the motion. Motion passed. One person abstained from the vote.

18. Personnel

Laura Pike made a motion to appoint Camilla Spence as a library aide for the 2008-2009 school year. Dana Littlefield seconded the motion. Motion passed. One person voted no.

19. Adjournment

At 7:50 Dana Littlefield made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dan Rowe seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathi Brown, Recording Secretary
Draft pending Board Approval.