

Tamworth School Board

1. Call to Order

A meeting of The Tamworth School Board was held at the Kenneth A. Brett School on Monday, November 16, 2009 at 5:30PM. The meeting was called to order by vice chair Dan Rowe. Present were board members Dan Rowe, Dana Littlefield, Brenda Robinson, and John Cleveland, Superintendent Jay McIntire, Principal Noel DeSousa, Special Ed Director Pat Kehoe, and Secretary Kathi Brown.

2. Approval of Agenda

Brenda Robinson made a motion to approve the agenda. John Cleveland seconded the motion. Motion passed.

3. Approval of Minutes (October 14, 2009)

Brenda Robinson made a motion to approve the minutes. Dana Littlefield seconded the motion. Motion passed.

4. Director of Special Services Update

Pat Kehoe stated that we are up by two students. One is school age and one is a pre school student. We currently have six pre school students enrolled. This may have a significant impact on the budget in the future. This year and next, there may be a significant cost reduction due to an out of district student.

5. Education Views

Heather Booska gave a video presentation and talk about a recent trip her first grade class took to visit various places in the Town of Tamworth. The reason to take field trips is to learn.

6. Visitor's Comments

None

7. Old Business

a. FERPA Policy (JRA) - 2nd reading/Adoption

Brenda Robinson made a motion to get it on the table. Dana Littlefield seconded the motion. The only change made from last time was in section E clarifying who the law enforcement units were. Motion passed and adopted.

b. Snow Plow Bids

Noel DeSousa followed up with the low bidder, who presented a revised bid of \$8,500.00. His prior bid did not include for snow removal as needed. Noel DeSousa and Al Thurston will keep track on quality control for the winter season. Next year Dan Rowe wants the SAU to send the bid specs to Willie Farnum at the Town for consideration next year. Dana Littlefield questioned the timely delivery of service since they are in Tuftonboro, and about keeping business local. John Cleveland made a motion to award the bid to Dawsen & Son. Dana Littlefield seconded the motion. 2 yes votes, 1 no vote, and 1 abstained (Brenda Robinson). The bid was awarded to Dawsen & Son.

8. New Business

a. Budget Goals 2010-2011

Jay McIntire presented a handout showing two goals. Goal 1 – moderate the rate of increase in per pupil costs while providing a quality education at the Brett School, and Goal 2 – Decrease the percentage by which Tamworth’s local education tax burden exceeds the state median. Another handout addressed the issues of 1) health insurance, 2) combine classes to increase class size, 3) changes in special education, 4) what can/should be done to improve student performance, 5) how do contract negotiations impact the budget, 6) SAU 9 tuition, 7) share SAU staff, and 8) bring in outside resources. Noel DeSousa presented a handout on the current budget where 53% is for personnel expenses, 44% is for fixed obligations, and 3% is for books, supplies & materials, and fees. So if you want to reduce the budget, personnel expense cuts make the most sense. He also presented a comparative data staffing configurations chart for K-8 schools that our similar to ours. Some items discussed by the board were bringing in outside capital, a new SAU location, cooperative services, a target goal for the budget, change the middle school configuration to grades 6, 7, & 8, look at what each teacher is certified for, where are grant expenses and income showing up in the budget, who do the employees report to- the school or SAU, need of an approved technology plan for e-rate funds, and gross expenses for the budget. Jay McIntire wants to know how the board wants the budget presented.

b. Proposed Budget Calendar

Budgeting workshops are not scheduled yet as they are waiting to hear from all the board members regarding dates. The superintendent just needs to set the dates. The task force report needs to be completed and given out to board members. Look at the status quo budget vs. some of the proposed targets along with the consequences if the budget is significantly reduced.

c. Commitment to Religious Neutrality Policy (ACD) – 1st reading

d. Administration Goals Policy (CA) – 1st reading

e. Student Transportation Services Policy (EEA) – 1st reading

- f. Instructional Needs of Students with Different Talents Policy (IFA) – 1st reading**
- g. Health Education and Exemption from Instruction Policy (IHAM) – 1st reading**
- h. Sexual Harassment and Violence – Students Policy (JBAA) – 1st reading**

Brenda Robinson made a motion to move item c-h as a 1st reading. Dana Littlefield seconded the motion. Motion passed.

i. Awarding of CIP bid

Four bids were received ranging from \$6,000. to \$33,000. and a handout was given to board members. After reviewing the four bids, Jay McIntire recommended H. L. Turner Group, Inc. with a bid of \$13,400. Dana Littlefield feels it is a lot of money to spend with an outcome of spending more money. Noel DeSousa stated that a lot of things need to be covered inside and out. Brenda Robinson made a motion to authorize Jay McIntire to negotiate a contract with H. L. Turner Group, Inc. to provide a specific report for a CIP plan and to invite them to the December board meeting to present their report. John Cleveland seconded the motion. One no vote. Motion passed.

9. Superintendent’s Report

A handout was given to board members.

a. Expenditure Report

The report was handed out along with a cover sheet with explanations. Dan Rowe does not like the finance manager’s explanations as the report is of no value as it now stands. We need to see where we stand, projected expenses, and we need a variance report so we will have to wait another month before going over it.

10. Principal’s Report

The handout was given to board members and gone over. John Cleveland is pleased with the process that the task force is going through and the final report will be very helpful.

11. Visitor’s Comments

Dave Farley – Asked about the task force report regarding Chichester and their health care costs. He also asked when the SAU13 joint board meeting was and if it is open to the public, which it is.

Dan Rowe – Stated that in Chichester the faculty & support staff pay 20% of health care costs and that the para professionals pay 35%.

Donna Ulitz - When looking at the health care costs paid in Chichester you also need to find out if their salaries are higher in that town, which could explain the difference.

12. Board Comments

None

13. Communications

Laura Pike had replied to the TEA's prior letter regarding ed views. To date, no response has been received by the TEA.

14. Non-Public Session – RSA 91-A:3 II a, b, c, d, e

None

15. Action as a Result of Non-Public

None

16. Personnel

None

17. Adjournment

Brenda Robinson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dana Littlefield seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:33pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathi S. Brown, Secretary
Draft Pending Board Approval