

Tamworth School Board

1. Call to Order

A meeting of the Tamworth School Board was held at the Kenneth A. Brett School on Wednesday, April 14, 2010 at 5:30pm. The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Dan Rowe. Present were board members Dan Rowe, Charlie Pugh, and John Cleveland, Superintendent Jay McIntire, Principal Noel DeSousa, Special Ed. Director Pat Kehoe, and Secretary Kathi Brown.

2. Approval of Agenda

John Cleveland made a motion to approve the agenda. Charlie Pugh seconded the motion. Motion passed.

3. Approval of Minutes (March 17, 2010)

On page 2, 1st paragraph, last sentence, change it to read: If the numbers stay high, SAU13 might need to consider having two programs next year, an AM and a PM session in Freedom. On page 1, section 2, change Dane Rowe to read Dan Rowe.

John Cleveland made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Charlie Pugh seconded the motion. Motion passed.

4. Director of Special Services Update

Pat Kehoe stated that there was one additional pre-school enrollment and two additional high school enrollments. Freedom will be offering an am pre-school session next year. The special education students did not meet the AYP requirements this year, and she will be looking for some of the causes of this. She also spoke about the summer enrichment program that is offered each year. Dan Rowe questioned her about the out of district tuition figures being considerably under this year and she stated that yes it will be, and it has been reflected in next year's budget.

5. Education Views

The special education department spoke this month.

Kerry Dubuque deals with grades K-3 and her goal is to have them gain access to pre-writing and pre-math, foundational skills that can be brought forward to the classroom. Her students benefit from the early skills. Her challenge is to find other ways to show growth, not just using the state wide tests. She has a caseload of 14.

Robin Steward deals with grades 4-6 and her goal is to have students be a part of the regular class, in various ways, and to be accepted by their peers. She enjoys using a team teaching effort in the classroom and she showed an example of an alternative assessment portfolio which shows a students potential. Her challenge is working with six different teachers any many schedules. She has a caseload of 12.

Sharon Roberts deals with grades 7-8 and her goal is for the students to believe they can be the best they can be and to come to school ready to learn. She is frustrated that the students don't see their own worth and that education is important, they need to be convinced. She team teaches with English and literacy and also does work in small groups of students. She has a caseload of 10.

Cindy Furnbach is a speech and language pathologist who deals with students in K-8. Her goal is for students to be able to communicate effectively in the classroom and be confident with their skills. Students learn to take turns, share, and they know her expectations. Students need consistency. She has a caseload of 27 and it leans towards grades 3 and under.

Dan Rowe spoke about the AYP and is disappointed that no one on the sped team mentioned what support the board can give them, as the boards goals will be their goals. Pat Kehoe stated that the staff needs a chance to dive into the data first and they will come back later with their support needs.

6. Visitor's Comments

Lori Palmer spoke on behalf of the PTA regarding AYP and the 21st Century grant that was turned down last year. If you need to spend money anyways to accomplish your goals, then she thinks the grant is worth it. Why not use the grant as a resource. After school programs could be used to help with AYP.

Noel DeSousa stated that the first three years of the grant are fully funded, the fourth year is at 75% and the fifth year is at 70%. The grant is now at \$150,000.00 per year.

Dan Rowe feels that this school is adequately funded already.

Peg DeLong reminded everyone that in the 21st century grant you need to pay for an administrator also.

John Cleveland feels that if Jay McIntire and the administrator want to bring it back to the board for consideration, they can.

Nancy Coville suggested looking for other outside grant funds.

Lori Palmer commends the board for trying to cut the budget but she feels like we are being nickel and dimed as it is minor money on taxes. She would like the board to look into the possibility of cost savings if we tuitioned our junior high students to Kennett.

Dan Rowe stated that our school is not sustainable, and the board will be having public strategy sessions to discuss various ways to save money. Our classes are too small because of enrollment. Changes require big ideas.

Peg DeLong let the board know that over one half million dollars is still owed in town taxes and that there are currently 265 properties in Tamworth with tax liens on them.

Karen McDonald asked what the townspeople can do to help, we are open to suggestions. She also spoke on the overlapping services and that something dramatic does need to happen to make changes. 17 to 19 is the optimal class size.

Nancy Coville questioned all day kindergarten and if this class is mandated for the specialists. This is also the week of the young child and she gave the board a copy of the book Nurture Shock to read.

Jay McIntire stated that the school is required to have services of the specialists.

Noel DeSousa noted that the grade span expectations vary. Every student now receives 30 to 60 minutes per week for specials. He would need to check with the DOE regarding kindergarten.

7. Old Business

a. Audio and Video Surveillance on School Buses Policy (ECAF) - 1st reading

Jay McIntire gave the board members a copy of the policy with the changes made. John Cleveland made a motion to accept the 1st reading. Charlie Pugh seconded the motion. Motion passed.

b. Use of School Buildings and Facilities Policy (KF) - 1st reading

c. Conflict of Interest Policy (BCB) - 2nd reading

d. Evaluation of Professional Staff Policy (GCO) - 2nd reading

e. Evaluation of Support Staff Policy (GDO) - 2nd reading

Items b-e will come back next month as Jay McIntire and Charlie Pugh need to work on them.

8. New Business

a. 403B Plan

This is regarding the retirement plan and possible misuse of funds by not sending in the deductions for six months. Two choices are to discontinue the plan or outsource the management. Outsourcing would create less paperwork for the district, and it would be a minimal cost which could be passed on to the employees. Our plan did not allow employees to borrow money against their plan. We needed to be in compliance by January 1, 2010 so we are late. Jay McIntire read the motion to approve third party outsourcing for this service. John Cleveland made a motion to approve this. Charlie Pugh seconded the motion. Motion passed.

b. SAU 13 office space

Freedom and Tamworth board members visited the proposed site at the K. A. Brett School. The Tamworth school district will pay the \$1,800.00 bill by the Turner group and the other districts will eventually help pay for this. John Cleveland made a motion to pay the \$1,800.00 and fund it from the school boards discretionary fund. Charlie Pugh seconded the motion. Motion passed.

c. Strategic Planning Sessions

Dan Rowe wants to involve Laura Pike in this and then the dates will be posted on the exchange.

9. Superintendent's Report

a. Principal Search

Laura Pike and Charlie Pugh will represent the school board. Marie Labrie will represent the parents. John Marlowe and Sally Bachman will represent the teachers and on Friday Jay McIntire will meet with several community members that are interested, and they will decide on a representative then. Everything is on the time schedule as anticipated.

b. AYP

Jay McIntire spoke about the RTI program and that 13 people are on this committee with 10 Brett staff members serving on it. This program will be helpful and will start to make a difference.

Dan Rowe wants AYP to be a standard agenda item each month as we are all disappointed with this and we need to fix it. We need to focus more on the fundamentals.

Charlie Pugh feels that the issue is not AYP. A lot of courses are not in AYP. It is federal accountability.

John Cleveland stated that Jay McIntire should recommend a framework to the board.

c. Expenditure Report

Jay McIntire stated that an error has been discovered in next year's budget. All staff and expenses were not in it. He will make the money come in for it somewhere, and it will be between \$75,000. and \$80,000.

Once the new finance director comes on board you will start to get a variance report. Analytical data will also start to be brought forward.

Dan Rowe would like to see a list created of the errors that have happened in the past so they do not happen again.

d. H. L. Turner

Jay McIntire handed out a draft report from them and will be getting feedback from certain staff about it. Final copies will be brought to the May 12th meeting along with staff from H. L. Turner. David Little will be invited to this meeting and a copy will be given to him.

The teacher workshop held this week focused on the math curriculum.

Jay McIntire will be bringing to each of the boards a request to change board meetings next year. Each board will own one night a week.

11. Principal's Report

Noel DeSousa gave the board his handout on the calendar of events and enrollment figures along with the weekly newsletter and information on the current after school program. The board had wanted more information regarding students in at-risk populations, so he handed out a summary of services for the board to look at. The third bullet should be changed to read Rehabilitation Act, not the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Charlie Pugh stated that SES is free or reduced lunch only and not a service. Jay McIntire stated that it can be taken out. Noel DeSousa stated that it shows a high correlation with other services that are provided. A more detailed report was handed out to board members and Charlie Pugh would like to know when students moved in (at what grade level) or were they here originally. We need to decide what we would like to see and keep this going.

12. Visitor's Comments

Karen McDonald asked about the at risk handout and if the alternative education students were in this blend. Noel DeSousa stated that some of those students are coded and some are not. Also, not all the behavioral students are coded either. Karen also wanted to point out that, per capita, we are more costly than Bedford, NH.

Heather Booska would like to see less paper and more communications electronically such as newsletters.

John Cleveland is in favor of using electronic communications more. Then you can print out what you want to.

Nancy Coville made a request to be involved in training programs with the school, as we share the same students. You should also include Gail Marrone. Jay McIntire will have the new principal put this on his radar.

Peg DeLong asked if 60% for an at risk population is unusually high and Jay McIntire said that it is not.

13. Board Comments

Dan Rowe read a letter Laura Pike had given him regarding the resignation of Brenda Robinson, effective immediately, from the school board. At the May meeting Laura Pike will appoint a board member that has been nominated by the board. If anyone is interested in serving on the board they should contact Laura Pike. This person will serve on the board until the next election.

John Cleveland would like to see, in short format, this year and next year, changes in budget.

Charlie Pugh would like to know what is going on at the high school level regarding an enrollment report.

Dan Rowe would like Jay McIntire to get a couple of the report cards from Carl Nelson.

14. Communications

Jay McIntire presented a parental request to have their kids stay in our school for the rest of this school year even though they are moving to a neighboring town. Jay McIntire & Noel DeSousa both recommend this. John Cleveland made a motion to let the family stay at our school for the rest of this school year, and the family will provide their own transportation. Dan Rowe seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Bids for grounds maintenance. Noel DeSousa recommends hiring ABC Lawn Care. Jay McIntire will take care of it.

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

None

16. Action as a Result of Non-Public

None

17. Personnel

A written request from John Perkins was presented, requesting a board hearing for the reasons for his time reduction (change in position). Jay McIntire stated this is required by law and he will schedule the hearing for the May meeting.

18. Adjournment

John Cleveland made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10pm. Charlie Pugh seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathi S. Brown, Secretary
Draft Pending Board Approval