

TAMWORTH SCHOOL BOARD

1. Call to Order

A meeting of the Tamworth School Board was held at the Kenneth A. Brett School on Wednesday, August 13, 2008, at 7:05PM. The meeting was called to order by Lisa Remick. Present were Laura Pike, Dan Rowe, Noel DeSousa, Gwen Poirier, and Kathi Brown. Dana Littlefield arrived at 8:00PM.

2. Approval of Agenda

Dr. Poirier requested the agenda be amended to reflect the following additions:

8d. Proposed change for February board meeting; 16c. Resignation of assistant cook/cashier; 4a. Ed views for tonight by Chris Kennedy.

Laura Pike made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Dan Rowe seconded the motion. Motion passed.

3. Approval of Minutes (June 11, 2008)

Dan Rowe would like to change in section 9e the second sentence to read as follows: Dan Rowe stated he feels the goals should be above standard expectations and address the disproportionate high expenses incurred by the Kenneth A. Brett School. (Not the SAU office.) Laura Pike made a motion to approve the minutes of June 11, 2008 as amended. Dan Rowe seconded the motion. Motion passed.

4. Director of Special Services Update

Pat Kehoe was not at the meeting but a report was handed out showing the best estimate of what is expected for September 2008 regarding special education.

a. Ed Views

Chris Kennedy reported on the PBIS system and handed out reports with statistical information. Major referrals involve a trip to the office by the student. Minor referrals are handled in the classroom. Kids fall into three levels, the red zone, the yellow zone, and the green zone. This year we should focus on the yellow zone kids. Dan Rowe wants to know what plans are in effect for this year's 8th graders based on the chart. There are various teams set up to deal with the red zone kids along with individual plans for them. The information shows that we are making progress in behavior issues from year to year, and that the kids are making the right choices. This year's theme will be Yes to Respect.

5. Visitor's Comments

Noel DeSousa spoke on behalf of the wellness community who hopes to present a policy change to the board in September or October of this year.

6. Committee Reports

a. SAU 9/13 Committee

This was requested at the annual district meeting last year. The joint board is not interested in it. Our committee consists of Chair, Charlie Pugh, Nate Hughes and Dan Rowe. They will set up a meeting for this.

b. Strategic Planning Committee

A meeting is to be scheduled for the second week in September.

7. Old Business

a. Policy JLCA Pediculosis Policy/Procedure – Adoption

This was a third reading and Dan Rowe made a motion to approve and Lara Pike seconded the motion. The motion passed.

b. Policy JICJ Communication Devices – First Reading

This is the second reading tonight. Laura Pike thinks it is too limiting and that the policy is too rigid. Needs to have flexibility when kids are at sporting events or off premise events. Dan Rowe thinks you should define what we want to prevent and then write the policy from that. Cell phones should not be ringing in class. Bring it back next month for further input.

c. Teacher Job Description – Second Reading

The handout was not in the board packet, bring it back next month.

8. New Business

a. School Board Goals 2008-2009

Dan Rowe wanted to know if it is discussed and adopted by the school board. The answer is yes it is and this handout tonight is last year's draft. Dan Rowe feels that the central issue to address is declining enrollment, setting standards, and higher costs. Lisa Remick feels that this document is not the place to address costs as the town votes in the costs at the annual meeting. Dan Rowe says there is no direction to control costs by the board. The cost piece is not defined by the RSA's. Dan Rowe will propose an objective and bring it back to next month's meeting.

b. Lunch Prices Recommendation

A handout was provided with proposed increase in prices for food services as prices have not been raised in several years. Laura Pike would like to explore a way to inform families of any increases early so they could budget for it. Dan Rowe suggested raising adult prices and keeping the kids prices the same as they are now. Marilyn Prive will be invited to the next board meeting to provide more information about the program before any changes are made. Kitty Greene and Kim Grace were present with information from the wellness committee regarding food and nutrition. The state graded us at 52% with areas for improvement noted. Laura Pike notes that there will be a labor intensity change with better nutrition and how would the community be informed with the changes along with a dollar value.

c. School Board Ethics (Policy Review Required)

Board members should read the handout for review and or signature and next month come back with any suggested revisions for discussion. Our board policy is not an RSA.

d. Proposed Change for February Board Meeting

Dr. Poirier suggested that the February 11th board meeting be moved to February 4th and combine it with the annual budget hearing meeting. This would give move leeway in budget developments. Dan Rowe wants to see the budget timeline first before making a decision. Bring back next month with all the dates involved.

9. Superintendent's Report

a. Expenditure Report

This is a preliminary report as they have not received the Treasurer's report for May and June 08 yet. All reports are due to the state by September 1st. When the final report is ready Dr. Poirier will get it to the board members for signatures. Dan Rowe wants to know why the final balloon payroll of \$80,000.00 was not encumbered into the budget balance as it should be a snapshot of what to expect for the end of the year.

b. Opening Day 2008

Opening day will be at the K. A. Brett School on August 27th at 8:00AM. Dr. Poirier will present the day's schedule at the joint board meeting.

c. Oil Bid

There is a locked in price with Jesse Lyman of \$4.19 per gallon. The board has not been involved with this bid in the past as it had been handled by the SAU office. Dr. Poirier made a good faith decision with going with Jesse Lyman. Funds from the 07-08 year could not be used for oil in the 08-09 year. Dan Rowe felt the board should have been consulted before locking in with anyone as we were taken advantage of last year and that we should have gone with the co-op. There was confusion between board members as to joining the local co-op and whether or not we would be committed to them. Laura Pike would like to see what different alliances can offer in the future and to clarify when the board should become involved in SAU purchases to avoid further misunderstandings. Dan Rowe wants the lowest possible costs. Dana Littlefield thinks the purchase should come from the joint board level.

d. Other

The fall NECAP testing for grades 3-8 will take place between October 1 – 23, 2008.

September 17th is constitution day. We will get 50% entitlement in October and the balance in April.

Dr. Poirier will be sharing with administration some energy savings tips and recommending to principal's to set the thermostats at 65%.

Dr. Poirier will be contacting Jim Lucy about doing an energy evaluation.

Dan Rowe wants to know if there is an energy policy on temperatures in buildings and perhaps draft one to cover it.

Noel DeSousa does not want blanket temperatures in each room as they are all different based on location. Currently maintenance controls the classroom temperatures and the computer is set at 69%.

Per Jay Hounsell of SAU 9, students who take an 8th grade Algebra class here can take a common assessment test and if they perform well, can get credits for the class.

A handout was given on the shared SAU services. Dan Rowe & Laura Pike would like it revised to show what % is ours and the cost amounts.

10. Principal's Report

Noel DeSousa handed out a calendar and a few of the dates need to be changed on it.

The Health & Wellness committee would like to have a board member on it. Laura Pike volunteered.

The Technology Plan committee would like to have a board member on it. Lisa Remick volunteered and Dana Littlefield may join once he knows the dates and times of the meetings.

11. Visitor's Comments

Chris Kennedy talked about the fall school assembly and that school board members should try to attend to find out what is going on at school. Chris Kennedy asked Dan Rowe about money spent for an average education and where he got his figures from. Also that test scores vs. budget will never compare together as a measure of educational dollars. Dan Rowe feels it is easier to justify money spent if the test scores are in the same ratio as cost, such as both in the upper quartile.

12. Board Comments

Dana Littlefield would like to know what the chain of command is when the school needs to be used as an emergency shelter. Who opens and sets up the school. The state can reimburse the school for employee costs. The emergency management plan needs to be brought to the board next month.

Lisa Remick commented on the police training done at school this year in July. It was terrific and we should continue to offer use of our school for this.

13. Communications

a. Thank You Notes

b. Approval Designation NHDOE

The designation is good until 2010.

14. Non-Public Sessions

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

Nothing for non-public session.

15. Action as a Result of Non-Public

Not applicable

16. Personnel

a. Nomination of Elementary Teacher

Laura Pike made a motion to nominate Kara Ouellette as a Grade 6 teacher for the 2008-2009 school year. Dana Littlefield seconded the motion. Motion passed.

b. Appointment of Recording Secretary

Dana Littlefield made a motion to nominate Kathi Brown as School Board recording secretary. Dan Rowe seconded the motion. Motion passed.

c. Resignation of Assistant Cook/Cashier

Dana Littlefield made a motion to accept the resignation of Julie Tavares. Laura Pike seconded the motion. Motion passed.

17. Adjournment

At 9:30PM, Dana Littlefield made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Laura Pike seconded this motion. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathi Brown, Recording Secretary
Draft pending Board Approval.