

April 9, 2008

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 9, 2008, at 5:32PM. The meeting was called to order by Lisa Remick. Present were Brenda Robinson, Dana Littlefield, Laura Pike, Dan Rowe, Gwen Poirier, Pat Kehoe, Noel DeSousa and Donna Ulitz.

2. Approval of Agenda

Dr. Poirier requested that Personnel include:

- b. Retirement Request
- c. Retirement Request

Brenda Robinson made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Laura Pike seconded the motion. Motion passed.

3. Approval of Minutes (February 19, 2008; March 17, 2008)

Brenda Robinson made a motion to approve the minutes of February, 19, 2008 as reported. Dana Littlefield seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Brenda Robinson made a motion to approve the minutes of March 19, 2008 as reported. Dana Littlefield seconded the motion. Motion passed.

4. Director of Special Services Update

Pat Kehoe reviewed the enrollment report. Ms. Kehoe notified the board that the paraprofessionals have recently had several opportunities for staff development training within the district. Also, during the last early release training Pat Kehoe and Mary Pat Devine presented RTI (Response to Intervention) to all professional staff in the district. Ms. Kehoe also reported that she will be reviewing the OT contract depending upon caseload need. Dr. Poirier publicly thanked Ms. Kehoe and Mrs. Devine for the RTI presentation to staff.

5. Education Views Special Education Team

Specialists –

- Melanie McBrian, Art Instructor. Mrs. McBrian presented examples of student artwork to the board.
 - John Perkins, Media Specialist. Mr. Perkins reported library facts and presented an update on the technology program. Board members and visitors viewed several student videos.
 - Lisa Ferguson, Music Instructor. Mrs. Ferguson reviewed the opportunities available to students. She also discussed the band/chorus programs, elements of music, music theory and dance/theatre.
 - Kerry Brooks, Physical Education Instructor. Mrs. Brooks reviewed some of the focus of her first year as the PE instructor. They included Jump Rope for Heart, fitness, cooperative learning and team building skills. She also serves as the Athletic Director.
- Kathleen Greene, Spanish Instructor. Mrs. Greene reported the benefits of having a language program throughout K-8 and some of the teaching methods she utilizes.

Special Education Views –

-Kerry Dubuque, Special Education grades K-2. Mrs. Dubuque gave an overview of services, caseloads and co-teaching, as well as an update to the Foundations program.

-Robin Steward, Special Education grades 3-5. Mrs. Steward gave an overview of her services including team teaching, whole class instruction and the Wilson Reading Program.

-Sharon Roberts, Special Education grades 6-8. Mrs. Roberts reviewed the Six-Traits Writing program, Trophies Reading program, and the success of inclusion across the grade levels.

-Mary Pat Devine, School Psychologist. Mrs. Devine works in Tamworth two days a week. She stated her services include mainly student evaluations and reports. She does attend some IEP meetings as needed and also is available for crisis counseling services.

-Cindy Furnbach, Speech and Language Pathologist. Mrs. Furnbach reviewed her services for students grades K-8 to include individual services, small group instruction, classroom instruction, and consultation.

-Chris Kennedy, Behavior Specialist. Mr. Kennedy services students as needed in grades K-8 and works towards the inclusion model for all students at risk. He also leads the Crisis Trainings through the district. He is also a coach on the PBIS team.

6. Visitor's Comments

Approximately eight visitors were present. Peg DeLong asked the board to review the January minutes to see if the minutes reflected the questions asked by Don Harte regarding the 21st Century Grant. Lisa Remick later confirmed that the minutes did report the questions asked by Mr. Harte.

9. New Business

a. Eddie Eagle Program

David Bowles presented a program for board review on firearm safety. He was asked to get a copy of the DVD and list of schools in New Hampshire participating in the program. The board will consider further after receiving this information for review.

7. Committee Reports

a. Strategic Planning Committee

The next meeting is scheduled for April 30th at 5:30PM.

8. Old Business

a. School Website Update

Upon request, the board received a proposal from Mountainlight Designs to redesign the K.A. Brett School website. Mr. DeSousa recommends approval of the proposal pending review by Mr. McNevich, Technology Coordinator. Brenda Robinson made a motion to approve the proposal from Mountainlight Designs as approved by Mr. McNevich and with the understanding of completion of the project by June 30, 2008. Dana Littlefield seconded the motion. Motion passed.

b. 21st Century Grant

Mr. DeSousa reported that the NHDOE granted approval of \$125,000 pending successful completion of the conditions described by May 1, 2008. Mr. DeSousa clarified that half of this money would be used to hire a full-time program director. Mr. DeSousa stated that some of the additional expenses incurred by the grant would be funded through a sliding scale fee charged to the participating children. Mr. Rowe stated he felt the grant to be a worthy cause, however the active partners in town should help with additional funding for the program. Board members discussed the concern for the potential additional costs to accept the grant money and that after five years the monies would have to be funded through the budget to keep the level of programming.

Upon the request of Laura Pike, Lisa Remick asked the visitors present their thoughts on accepting the 21st Century Grant as proposed. Peg DeLong stated her concerns regarding the other commitments involved in accepting the grant as well as how the community would be able to support the additional costs. Pat Farley stated that she appreciated the discussion and concern for the budget. David Farley stated that he could not justify half of the money being spent on administrative fees. Appreciation was extended to the grant writer for her hard work in writing the grant.

Brenda Robinson made a motion for the Tamworth School Board to decline the 21st Century Grant as awarded. Dana Littlefield seconded the motion. Motion passed.

c. School Community Index

Mr. DeSousa reported that the PIRC has coordinated one parent workshop and will present another on Monday, April 14th. Both parent workshops have focused on homework.

d. Other

-Mr. Rowe reviewed the cost per pupil expenses of the school as compared to the state. Local costs increased 30% as enrollment decreased by 13%. The state reported a cost increase of 18% with a decline in enrollment of 29%.

Mr. Rowe reported that he met with finance manager, Joanne Dolbear, regarding the reformatting of the budget report to show requested data and to enhance the ability of understanding. He will keep the board updated regarding the report format.

9. New Business

b. Board Meeting Start Time

-Mr. DeSousa reported that he gave parents an opportunity to call the school regarding the start of the board meetings. One parent called to request the meetings be changed to 6:00PM. The PTA discussed the start time at the last meeting and made no request to change the time. At this time the meeting time will remain at 5:30PM.

c. SAU #9 and SAU #13 Request at Annual School Meeting

Lisa Remick reported that at the last Joint Board Meeting it was decided, after discussion, to not pursue any further action to join SAU #13 and SAU#9. She suggested that Charlie Pugh be invited to spearhead a committee as requested at the Annual School District Meeting to discuss this further. Nate Hughes agreed to serve on the committee. Dr. Poirier will contact Mr. Pugh.

d. Dropout Rate Information

Dr. Poirier reported that the Student Success Task Force has been established and reported and reviewed the current dropout data. One of the topics for review has been addressing the student dropout rate. Dr. Nelson has promised that the requested Tamworth desegregated data will be available to Dr. Poirier at the May Joint Board meeting. Dr. Poirier will then get the reduced drop out rate information out to the community.

10. Superintendent's Report

a. Expenditure Report

The expenditure report to date was given to the board for review and discussion. Dr. Poirier projects a healthy surplus at the year end. Dan Rowe requested that he review the manifest with Brenda Robinson at the next earliest convenience.

b. NECAP Report

Tabled until next month when the AYP report is available.

c. Other

-Dr. Poirier stated that she is attempting to coordinate a Tri-Town Event to be held on June 24, 2008.

-Jennifer Jacobsen will present a follow-up to the Six-Traits Writing program at the next early release date on May 14th.

-Dr. Poirier updated the board on current legislation including the Retirement Health Subsidy, and House Bill reviews.

11. Principal's Report

a. Monthly Update

Mr. DeSousa updated the board on recent school events and upcoming events.

The 8th Grade Celebration has been scheduled for June 23, 2008.

12. Visitor's Comments

Peg DeLong asked if the \$295,000 remaining in the budget included encumbered salaries. Dr. Poirier clarified that all salaries had been encumbered. Mrs. DeLong asked who had recommended a school liaison for the district and Dr. Poirier stated that it was a recommendation from the Student Task Force. Brenda Robinson clarified that the SAU #13 budget had been approved by all three districts.

13. Board Comments

Dana Littlefield distributed CD copies of the Tamworth School Board Policy Manual to all board members and Mr. DeSousa.

Lisa Remick gave praise to Exchange City in Portsmouth, NH for the opportunity given to the 6th grade on a recent field trip. She also commented on the student achievements at the 7th and 8th grade food expo, and commended Kennett High School for the orientation given to incoming 9th grade students and parents.

14. Communications

a. Meeting Minutes of Building Steering Committee

Communications were given to board as informational items.

15. Non Public Session

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

At 8:45PM, Dana Littlefield made a motion to go into Non-Public Session. Laura Pike seconded the motion. At 9:05PM, Dana Littlefield made a motion to go out of Non-Public Session. Dan Rowe seconded this motion. Motion passed.

16. Action as a Result of Non Public Session

a. Awarding of Landscaping Bid

Dana Littlefield made a motion to award the landscaping contract for 2008 to Liberty Lawn and Landscape.

Laura Pike seconded the motion. Motion passed.

-Dana Littlefield made a motion to grant the parental request with transportation provided by parent through the end of the school year. Laura Pike seconded the motion. Motion passed.

17. Personnel

a. Appointment of Support Staff 2008-09.

Tabled.

b. Retirement Request

Laura Pike made a motion to accept the resignation of Eileen McDonald with regret. Dan Rowe seconded the motion. Motion passed.

c. Retirement Request

Dana Littlefield made a motion to accept the resignation of Mary Ann Smith as of 1/1/2009 with regret. Laura Pike seconded the motion. Motion passed.

18. Adjournment

At 9:07PM, Dana Littlefield made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Laura Pike seconded this motion. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Ulitz, Recording Secretary
Draft pending Board Approval.