

Approved
Twinfield Union School Special Board Meeting
Twinfield Union School Library & Zoom Meeting
Tuesday, October 10, 2023
6:00 p.m.

Call to order by Erin Barry at 6:00 pm

In attendance: Patrick Healy, Erin Barry, Janna Osman, Mark Kaufman, Milena Yasus, Sara Cain, Acting Superintendent Anne Landry, Principal Rachel Hartman, Principal Stephanie Ainslie

Patrick Healy took a moment to explain Public Comment

Consent Agenda

Minutes from:

- August 8, 2023
- September 12, 2023

A **motion** to approve the minutes by Janna Osman and seconded by Milena Yasus. Motion passed.

Public Comment – none

Superintendent Report – The one section Anne wanted to highlight in the report is listed below. *The VT Annual Snapshot data was released. This is based on the statewide assessment data for the 2021-2022 school year. The SU was designated as needing equity support for students on free and reduced lunch, IEPs, and those in historically marginalized groups. We are working with the AOE to determine what support is available. There is no additional funding associated with this designation. Twinfield Union School has been designated as needing comprehensive support based on four-year graduation rates from 2018-2022. Additional funding through the consolidated federal programs will be provided as part of the support offered by the AOE. A letter will be published on the CCSU website to let the communities know about the designation. Anne went over the AOE identification. Comprehensive support for TUS. Funding will come to support that improvement. For TUS it was looking at 4-year graduation rate.*

Board discussion.

Principal Report – some points highlighted

- Oct 26 Pumpkin Walk – Please join.
- Oct 27 Parent/Teacher Conference
- Oct 31 Picture Day
- School is off to a good start. Had to make a few adjustments to the schedule. Reviewed with bus riders what is expected while on the bus.
- Discussed how when the grades meet goals, they have a celebration.
- High School is working on strengthening community.
- Highlighted the HS current offerings.
- Middle School is also working on community.

Jenna wondered how Career Tech Center options are shared with students. Rachel explained what they have done in the past to bring the information to the students.

Student Service Report – Marianna

- PSAT & SAT testing is taking place
- Student Voice having a bake sale
- Mentoring started last week

Board Discussion

Discussion on email threat that was received. Rachel went through all the steps that the principals and staff took on the initial day. The threat is for October 18th.

State Police were present to discuss their presence and what they have been doing since the email threat came in. State Police do not recommend closing the school for that day. The State Police will be present that day along with fish and game. They will have a presence before and after that date as well. Without giving too much information since this is an active investigation, this is not a threat directed just at Twinfield School and it may be linked to other threats. This is a theory and not proven yet. They do believe the email came from outside Vermont.

Rachel spoke on the training that the staff go through along with the students. The training is different for different age groups. All are age appropriate. Students are being engaged and encouraged to talk about the stress that these situations bring. Teachers are doing check ins with students. Talk Space is also a resource for talking and sharing.

Anne noted the importance of checking in on staff as well.

Patrick Healy wanted to say a thank you to the police officers for all their help.

Public discussion – (not able to capture all the names and conversation)

Marshfield parent – comment on communication.

Dan (Plainfield) – Communication was quick, but nature of the threat was not communicated. Would like to be a resource for the school to help coordinate some training that he is aware of that works with schools. Discussion on what the training involves.

Question to officers if it was their child involved, would they send them to school that day? Yes.

Tiffany (Marshfield) – Noted that the front door is not always locked and can be pulled open. Also noted some parents are let in with no identification at the side door.

What will be put in place after October 18th – It will be a discussion moving forward.

Parent commented that she started an online petition for putting a guard at the school.

Cameron – Appreciates everything he has heard this evening. When he asked his high school students what has changed since the threat, they stated nothing has changed.

Plainfield parent – They have had the opportunity to talk with a few of the teachers. Very grateful for the communication provided by the principals. Grateful to learn that the teachers are helping the students to keep their days normal and paying attention to the students' needs.

Graham (Marshfield) – shared experience from that morning. Would have preferred to have as much information as possible. Was left worried that morning.

Cassandra – Is anyone trained to take an active shooter down or de-escalate a situation.

Amy – Also would have liked more information on that morning.

Michelle (Marshfield) – Wanted to comment on how wonderful the board and community are.

Athletics Discussion – Randy Rathburn

4 or less from another district, the team stays as the home district team that they are playing on
5 or more it becomes a cooperative agreement

Currently do not have cooperative team uniforms. Students use jerseys that we currently have.
In the future the SU will work towards having a cooperative name, mascot etc.

Public comment on transportation being an issue for cooperative sports. No transportation does not make it equitable.

Question on if there is training for coaches? Yes, 7 – 12th coaches must take training with VPA.
Volunteers for the younger grades can take the training with the VPA.

Board would have to put a line in the budget for volunteers that want to take classes with the VPA that have a cost.

Massage Therapist to come in for Teacher/Staff Support –

A **motion** to approve the therapist to come in at a cost of \$500 by Janna Osman and seconded by Sara Cain. Motion passed.

Public Question:

What is the school doing to attract more employees?

Nuts & Bolts

Board members shared some final thoughts for the night.

Future Meetings: Tuesday, November 14th, 2023 at 6 p.m. - Regular Board Meeting

A **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 pm by Janna Osman and seconded by Sara Cain.
Motion passed.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Nicky Cole