

TECUMSEH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Regular Board of Education Meeting
March 13, 2017 Minutes

The regular meeting of the Tecumseh Public Schools' Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m., by President Amstutz-Wild, in the High School Media Center.

Board Present: Members K. Amstutz-Wild; R. Hart; S. Linn; G. Johnson; J. Rice; and E. Tritt

Board Absent: Member Johnson-Berges

School Present: Superintendent K. Coffin, J. Pfund, L. Church, D. Thelen, R. Francis, C. Lewandowski, J. Zajac, G. Mills, A. Mensing, R. Hilderley, J. Mattison, and J. Bills

There were approximately 40 guests present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Member Johnson led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

GOOD NEWS:

TVA Graduate: The Board and administration recognized THS Graduate, Ryan Armstrong on completing the necessary coursework to graduate through the Tecumseh Virtual Program. Mrs. Morgan indicated he is now enrolled in his first semester in college.

THS Class of 2017 Valedictorian and Salutatorian: The Board and administration recognized the Class of 2017 Valedictorian, Adam Shelby on earning a 4.31 GPA and Salutatorian, Hannah Swirple on earning a 4.238 GPA.

TMS Robotics Update: Mr. Brian McDowell, TMS Teacher, spoke about the TMS Robotics Club. He stated this year the district received some additional grant funds so additional robotics clubs have been started at the K-3 level as well as the 4-6 grade level and the 7/8 team. Middle school students spoke about participating in the Tech Challenge event and highlighted the process the students go through as far as forming the team, building the equipment, controlling the software, and their record keeping in the required workbooks. Mr. Hilderley complimented Mr. McDowell on his help in securing the grants for the district.

PUBLIC COMMENT – ON AGENDA ITEMS: No comments made.

AGENDA - BOARD

REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA: With no revisions or corrections, it was moved by Member Rice, support by Member Linn, to approve the agenda as presented. All ayes. Motion carried 6-0.

SCHEDULED REPORTS:

State of the District: Dr. Coffin presented the "State of The District" report to the Board. She spoke about the new Vision and Mission which is "uncompromisingly learner centered". She reviewed budget trends for revenue and expenditures, enrollment trends, school of choice data, and highlighted who are learners are...general ed students, students receiving free & reduced services and students with special needs. She also spoke about the Strategic Design process and the district reorganization, which is part of the Strategic Design. Dr. Coffin spoke about student achievement data from NWEA to SAT and graduation rate and the top 10-post secondary college choices by our students. As far as the next step, there are plans to increase local partnerships in the community, continue to improve learner outcomes, and continue to operate in the "ideal best" situation for our learners.

Athletics Update: Mr. Zajac, Athletic Director, gave an update of the winter sporting season, highlighting individual student successes as well as team successes, titles and championships.

Technology Update: Mr. Bills, Technology Director, spoke about the student tech support that he has put in place where high school students are helping with Chromebook repairs which have helped his department as the turn-around time to fix devices has been cut down considerably. He stated he looks to expand this practice to the STEAM centers next year with the high school students training the 7th/8th graders. He explained how this gives students experience working in this field as well. Mr. Bills stated that all decisions in the Tech Department are future focused and as we continue to expand the number of devices throughout the district, the issue is ensuring we have enough bandwidth to support all of our needs and to provide a safe environment for our learners as well. Additionally, he stated as we continue to look at ways to provide customized learning at all levels, he will be meeting with learners to seek feedback about what future needs might look like.

Monthly Finance Report: Mrs. Pfund, Director of Business Services, reviewed the monthly finance reports, covering revenue and expenditures. She indicated she has started making adjustments for the budget lines for next year with the changes as far as new building configurations and budget codes. Mrs. Pfund stated she is watching both the House and Senate as we begin to move toward budgeting assumptions for next year and where that final dollar amount will end up.

Monthly Facilities Report: Mr. Josh Mattison, Director of Facilities, reported that the LED lighting project should be completed by the end of April. Next he spoke about the HVAC matter and that March 20th is the kickoff meeting for the project to set timelines and goals for the work to be done.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Review of Classroom Furniture Purchases: Mr. Josh Mattison reviewed preliminary budget information for potential furniture options for the two STEAM centers as well as the multi-purpose rooms in each Center. The furniture arrangement had been reviewed by the Board AD HOC Committee and shared with the Board at the Feb. 13th meeting.

Review of Bids for Construction Work for Building Improvements: Mr. Mattison shared information from the bid process which closed on March 9th. Dr. Coffin stated perhaps the Board AD HOC Committee would need to meet to review and discuss the matter in more detail prior to the Board taking action regarding the furniture purchases as well as the construction bids.

E-Rate Bids for Technology Infrastructure Upgrades: Mr. Joel Bills, Technology Coordinator, provided information to the Board from the 470 form regarding the use of E-Rate funds to support technology infrastructure upgrades. He stated he was looking at vendors who could provide the infrastructure base for all areas we need, covering switches, components, wireless, etc., to bring the network up-to-date. The initial cost, with our 50% rebate, came in at \$154,965.01. He stated given the timeline with the reorganization, he recommends going with Secant Technologies as we have a good working history with the company and they are a Cisco authorized seller as well. The next step is to also approve the 471 which would start the process for the 50% discount. This will be on the next agenda for action.

ACTION ITEMS:

Request for Overnight Trip – JV & VAR Soccer Team Camp: It was moved by Member Rice, support by Member

Johnson, to approve the Request for Overnight Travel for the JV & VAR. Soccer Team to participate in the Team Camp activities on August 11-14, 2017 at Trout Creek Resort in Harbor Springs, MI. All ayes. Motion carried 6-0.

Request for Overnight Trip for Middle School: It was moved by Member Tritt, support by Member Johnson, to approve the Request for Overnight Travel for 8th grade students to travel to Gettysburg, PA., and Washington, D.C., from May 3-6, 2017. All ayes. Motion carried 6-0.

2017-18 Building of Choice Policy & Forms: It was moved by Member Linn, support by Member Rice, to approve the 2017-18 Building of Choice Policy and forms as presented. All ayes. Motion carried 6-0.

2017-18 School of Choice: It was moved by Member Hart, support by Member Linn, that the TPS Board of Education supports and recognizes the school of choice program adopted by the Michigan legislature. Additionally, the Board hereby implements the school of choice option for the 2017-2018 school year and will accept applications from non-resident students residing within the local intermediate school district and contiguous counties for the 2017-18 school year under the school of choice plan and will comply with the deadlines and requirements as set forth by law. All ayes. Motion carried 6-0. Note: Member Rice indicated he is not in favor of School of Choice, however, it is the environment in Michigan that we must live with.

ARAMARK Custodial Contract: It was moved by Member Tritt, support by Member Johnson, to approve the resolution to authorize the Tecumseh Public School District to terminate its contract with ARAMARK Custodial Services, pursuant to paragraph #2 of the contract – Term & Termination, and hereby authorize administration to provide a 60-day written notice of our intent to terminate the contract effective June 30, 2017. All ayes. Motion carried 6-0.

AGENDA – ADMINISTRATION (District Business)

CONSENT AGENDA: It was moved by Member Rice, support by Member Linn, to approve the Consent Agenda which included Minutes from the February 13, 2017 Regular Board of Education meeting. All ayes. Motion carried 6-0.

ACTION ITEMS: No items scheduled.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT: Superintendent Coffin stated she and Laurie Church attended the Michigan Council for Exceptional Children conference, and gathered additional information on Specially Designed Instruction, specifically on how all service providers can work together to provide supports for learners, especially with Individual Education Plans (IEP’s) needs. She spoke about a contact in Colorado who is doing this type of work that we will be connecting with for further discussions. Dr. Coffin spoke about the District Reorganization meeting held on Feb. 27th and that those in attendance heard from TPS faculty and learners on customized learning opportunities that are already happening throughout the district. Additionally, Dr. Coffin reminded Board members of the Board Retreat set for March 27th and stated during the dinner hour, TMS student Ben Lammers will talk about technology for the STEAM Centers. Other agenda topics include an update from Mrs. Bailey on our efforts in the areas of reading and math, and the Board will spend time working through the content from the book, *The Advantage: Improving Organizational Health*.

ADMINISTRATIVE DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Building Updates:

Tecumseh High School – Mr. Griff Mills complimented the band and orchestra students on their outstanding performance at Festival. He also spoke about some of the initiatives going on at the high school, “Why You Matter” program; suicide awareness; diversity, and how staff are becoming more comfortable with taking risks as they see how it benefits the learners.

Tecumseh Middle School – Mr. Rick Hilderley spoke about the 7th grade career project, which is now in its wrap-up phase, with final presentations due before break. He spoke about some of the other projects at the middle school that students are working on such as the bat houses and the 5th grade lessons on velocity and speed. Mr. Hilderley spoke about the “break out boxes” exercise that the 2-6 staff members, who will be in the Compass Learning Center next year, have been doing. As part of the process, staff must work together as teams to figure out common problems. He stated it has been interesting to see them come together through this exercise as many staff members don’t know other teachers.

Herrick Park – Mrs. Robyn Francis spoke about the many “hands-on” projects at all grade levels and that all elementary schools were represented at the Tri-County Olympiad and it was a great event.

Patterson – Ms. Deidra Thelen stated March is Reading Month and spoke about the different activities that have been scheduled by having Rep. Bronna Kahle and football players come in to read with students and the reading family night activities that are planned. Ms. Thelen spoke about the work she and Mr. Schmidt have been doing with staff that will be at the STEAM Centers next year as they plan the schedules and units of study.

Tec. Acres – Mr. Carl Lewandowski stated he sat in at Parent/Teacher conferences with some of the new teachers in his building. He stated it was great to see the interaction between the teachers and parents. He also complimented the noon hour supervisors who do a great job with the learners each and every day and especially on rainy days when the student cannot go outside.

Student Support Services – Mrs. Laurie Church also spoke about the conference she attended with Dr. Coffin and stated much of what they heard reaffirmed Tecumseh is headed in the right direction forging the way and it’s very exciting. She spoke about the IEP format and that she is looking a model used in Ohio which provides more flexibility when writing plans to be more dynamic for learners with interventions.

ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR NEXT AGENDA (April 10, 2017)

Good News:

- Michigan Art Education Association Region 3 Art Show Participants

Report/Discussion Items:

- LISD Budget Review

Action Items:

- Classroom Furniture Purchases
- Bids for Construction Work for Building Improvements
- E-Rate Bids for Technology Infrastructure Upgrades

CLOSING

PUBLIC COMMENT: No comments made.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/DISCUSSION: Member Rice stated he visited a staff meeting at the High School and he was very excited to see everyone being engaged and the things discussed were awesome.

Member Johnson reported the THS Robotics Club competed last weekend and finished near the middle of the pack. The next event is in Marysville for the high school. He stated it was nice to know we now have a MS Team to participate in robotics competition as well.

ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION: At 8:07 p.m., it was moved by Member Hart, support by Member Linn, to adjourn to closed session, **Pursuant to P.A. 267 of 1976, Section 8, Subsection (a):** To consider the dismissal, suspension, or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, or to *consider a periodic personnel evaluation* of, a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual agent, if the named person requests a closed hearing. A person requesting a closed hearing

may rescind the request at any time, in which case the matter at issue shall be considered after the rescission only in open sessions, and **Pursuant to P.A. 267 of 1976, Section 8, Subsection (c)**: For strategy and negotiation sessions connected with the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement if either negotiating party requests a closed hearing. Roll call: Members K. Amstutz-Wild; R. Hart; S. Linn; G. Johnson; J. Rice; and E. Tritt. Motion carried 6-0.

ADJOURNMENT: At 8:59 p.m., it was moved by Member Rice, support by Member Tritt, to return to open session. At 9:00 p.m., President Amstutz-Wild adjourned the meeting.

Debbie Johnson-Berges, Secretary, Board of Education

H:\Board Minutes\March 13 2017 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.doc