

THETFORD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Tuesday, February 13, 2017
Thetford Elementary School Art Room

APPROVED MINUTES

Shannon Darrah convened the meeting at 6:36 p.m.. The following were present: Julie Acker, Charlie Buttrey, Shannon Darrah, Kristen Downey, Scott MacPhee, School Board; Kevin Petrone, TES Principal; Beth Cobb, OESU Superintendent

PUBLIC PRESENT: None

AGENDA REVIEW: Agenda approved with amendments.

MINUTES REVIEW: MOTION: (Buttrey/MacPhee) moved/seconded to approve the minutes of the January 31, 2017 Board meeting (unanimous approval; Downey abstained).

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF ORDERS: MOTION: (Acker/MacPhee) moved/seconded to approve accounts payable order # 5850 and payroll warrant # 5842 (unanimous approval).

PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE: Cobb presented a contract for Cynthia Dale, PhD, and recommended to hire her as the school psychologist. She is filling the vacant social worker position. For the 70 days left of this school year, the salary is prorated at \$29,836.94. Petrone spoke very highly of Dale. She has worked at Deer Creek and ACRS Health Care and Rehabilitation Services as an administrator. Petrone is hoping to save on the cost of outsourcing student evaluations, which cost \$2,000 per evaluation. MacPhee asked what the difference is in salary between a social worker and psychologist. Petrone stated he does not know. Buttrey clarified Dale is a probationary employee. He expressed concern about the budget since Dale is being paid at a high level because of her experience. Petrone reiterated she will do wonderful things for TES students. Cobb also presented a contract for Pamela Fein for substitute para-educator (1/12/17 - 3/10/17). Petrone explained several people have been out this year due to surgeries.

TA REPORT: Darrah reported the last meeting was short because the faculty presentation was canceled. There was a budget presentation regarding the international student program and food services. Both are separate from TA's main budget. Food services loses money each year (as it does at TES) despite trying to make some changes, including looking at other vendors. Money from the endowment was used to start the international student program. Over the years that money has been paid back from profit. There are ten students this year. Board members took a survey to look at how members think the Board is functioning as a whole. There was a long executive session. Buttrey asked for clarification on food services, and asked if the TA Board considers this a problem. Darrah stated it is a concern for the Board.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT (Kevin Petrone): Petrone presented a resignation letter from music teacher, Shannon Arigides. Darrah thanked Arigides and wished her well. TES needs to hire a music teacher. The position has been advertised. This Wednesday will be the 3rd annual TES

science fair held in the gym. Students will view projects at 1:30, and families can attend from 5 to 6:30. Wednesday is National Assessment of Educational Progress testing for 4th graders. Schools are randomly selected every 4 years, and TES is frequently chosen. Students will use paper and pencil, as well as tablets.

Staff professional development on Ski Fridays is still going well. Last week teachers learned about backwards design in project based learning. This is a method for designing projects and curriculum by starting with the end goal, and asking: What do I want my students to learn and design? Last Friday was Vermont Writes Day with the Young Writers Project. All TES students stopped what they were doing and wrote for 7 minutes, with some classes writing for longer. There were a variety of prompts. "On demand writing" is having an idea and getting thoughts on paper without a lot of editing. One of the biggest obstacles is getting students started on their writing.

Regarding the heat system, TES has a temporary oil tank in the back of the school that was bypassing all the lines while the tank was being cleaned. All has been operating without problems. Next week is February vacation.

PRE-TOWN MEETING AND TOWN MEETING PLANNING: This will be practice for the Board to present data during Town meeting. Acker brought a draft copy of the report. Darrah noted the cost of the report is a little more than in past years. Next year there will be other options. Acker stated she is willing not to be paid for the design to keep costs down. Board members disagreed. Designers have been paid in the past. Acker suggested posting a message on the listserv to prepare folks for a school report that is different from past years. Budget details will be on the website.

ACT 46 UPDATE: Downey reported the group (Thetford, Tunbridge, Sharon and Strafford) voted to hire consultant, John Everett, to help determine if this alternative structure could be a good choice. Everett is a consultant for the VT School Board Association. He has experience in special education, and as a principal and superintendent. He has worked with a number of study groups already so he understands the Act 46 landscape. Tunbridge is talking with Chelsea regarding a merger. Chelsea may be interested in this alternative structure. Darrah stated a bill has been introduced in the legislature to give school districts more time, but there have been no new rules proposed for alternative structures. Downey added the group may ask if they can reapply for a grant. Cobb does not believe there is a grant for an alternative structure. Discussion followed.

UPDATE SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH: Buttrey attended an advisory council meeting to begin the superintendent search. The council met with Harry Frank, the consultant for the search. A goal is to survey the various Boards regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the SU, in order to inform what they are looking for in a new superintendent. Ultimately the Boards will step away from the process and there will be a committee of about 10 various stakeholders. The committee will be chosen within the next three weeks. The committee should be geographically diverse.

MARCH MEETING SCHEDULE: Voting day falls on the typical OESU meeting day. Since existing Board members will still be on the Board, the Board agreed to meet on that date.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Student Matter): MOTION: (Buttrey/MacPhee) moved/seconded to go into Executive Session at 7:27 p.m. to discuss a student matter, which is protected by law. Out of executive session at 7:45 p.m. No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: (MacPhee/Buttrey) moved/seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m. (unanimous approval).

FUTURE MEETINGS:

2/27/17 Executive Session - Residency Hearing	5:30 p.m.
2/28/17 Pre-town School Meeting	7:00 p.m.
3/7/17 OESU/TTSD meeting	6:00/7:30 p.m.
3/21/17 TTSD meeting	6:30 p.m.

Minutes Prepared By:
Amy Bosco, Minutes Clerk

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Julie Acker, Board Clerk