

Approved Minutes
**Caledonia Central Supervisory Union
TWINFIELD UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
Tuesday, January 9, 2024 – 6:00pm**

Meeting was held remote-only due to weather and travel concerns

Call to Order by Patrick Healy at 6:10 PM

Present: Patrick Healy, Mark Kaufman, Erin Barry, Janna Osman, Milena Yasus, Sara Cain, Superintendent Mark Tucker, Director of Finance Michael Concessi, Principals Rachel Hartman & Stephanie Ainslie, Student Rep Marianna Cleary,

Additions/Changes to Agenda

Public Comment: none

Consent Agenda:

Minutes from December 12, 2023

A **motion** to approve minutes of December 12, 2023, by Mark Kaufman and seconded by Milena Yasus. Motion passed. Erin requested the list of questions Mark Kaufman had asked last meeting to be sent to her; Janna Osman also asked for them.

Superintendent Report – Mark Tucker was present to answer any questions from his written report. No questions.

Student Services Report – no discussion on the report.

Principal Report – Rachel and Stephanie were present.

Erin asked how Rachel enjoyed being taped to the wall? The kids did great and helped her get out. How have families been responding to bus offenses? Families have been receptive and working with administration to address any issues.

Student Report - Marianna

- Penny challenge raised over \$600 for the food shelf along with nonperishable foods.
- The National Honor Society is fundraising for Winter Carnival and Prom. Selling Super Bowl Squares for \$10.
- Ski and ride had a meeting today to discuss upcoming ski days.
- Visual and performing arts festival next week.
- Having only a single day of winter term this year.

Board Discussion

Model UN Presentation – Chris Sheehan & students were present - Hazel, Liz, Sam and Gigi.

Gigi Guertin spoke about the Model UN club where students attend conferences and compete against students from around the country. Students have been trying to go to a conference in Boston and fundraising for that. Thankful to the school for paying their entrance fees. Hoping the school will be able to help fund the Boston conference, the expense will be around \$1250. The Boston trip is February 2nd.

Sam ?? spoke on the educational value of Model UN. Learning about global issues around the world. TUS has a class called Global Citizenship which ties in. Students do research on different issues and political views. Gives a full perspective and historical knowledge.

Hazel ?? noted Model UN helps with meeting new people and developing communication skills. Learn to advocate for yourself and cooperate with others to pass resolutions. Compromise and look at other points of view.

Mark Kaufman had a few questions for the students. The board asked the students about fundraising and gave them some fundraising suggestions.

FY25 Budget Discussion – Michael Concessi was present to go over the budget and answer any questions.

Mike started by showing how the education fund is funded. He went over the Resident, Nonresident and Income Sensitive rates. Mike also shared a Homestead value/income table which allows taxpayers to see where their rate is.

All tax factors are in from the State. FY25 budget is up \$578k. Primary driving factors are Compensation, SU Assessments, Health Insurance, Afterschool Program (now in the local budget), Benefits. Inflation affects almost every driver above.

Janna asked about the SU Assessment increase. Those increases are the new Asst Superintendent position, increase in Superintendent salary, food service (wages, health care, food costs), Special Ed – getting less reimbursement due to the block grant.

After all the variables are plugged in Mike showed the pre-CLA rates and with the CLA tax rates. Plainfield is up 11 cents and Marshfield is up 18 cents from last year. Discussion on home appraisals and how it affects the CLA.

Mike showed a slide that breaks down the budget by object code.

Sara noted that the Homestead Income slide is very useful and would like to share the year-over-year amounts.

Erin wondered if the budget for FY24 is on track. At this point, we are good but all involved will keep an eye on it.

Patrick wondered what the numbers would be if a million dollars was removed. Not wanting a million dollars removed, just wanted to see what the effect would be. Not a serious thought.

Mark Kaufman wondered if there were any places to reduce the numbers? Mike noted that the budget was built lean. Mark Kaufman believes we should move forward.

A **motion** to approve the expenditure budget of \$8,049,084 by Mark Kaufman and seconded by Janna Osman. Motion approved.

Patrick asked what we do through the year for financial planning? Is there anything the board should be doing? Patrick would like to start to look ahead.

Mark Kaufman wondered if a fiscal analyst has been done on a Regional High School? Not yet, since first we would need communities wanting to go this route. A 706b committee would need to be formed. Mark Tucker spoke on some of the ideas that are out there right now in Cabot.

Discussion on what the figures will look like if the town has a reappraisal done. Mike showed those figures.

The board will need to have a quick meeting next week to approve the Warning. January 16th at 4:30 PM.

Regional HS Choice Lottery Program – Twinfield in the past has approved 10 incoming and 10 outgoing slots. Mark Tucker gave the current number of students currently participating in this program.

Liz – noted that last year her son was denied being added due to too many exiting students. Last year Twinfield had too many students for the exiting slots. Is it based on grade level? No. Wanted to know if we have a figure on how many entered last year? No. Liz wondered when the school typically knows? Melissa will send home information. It is also factored in if the other school has room in their lottery system. Liz will send Mark Tucker a direct email and they will talk further.

A **motion** to approve Twinfield's participation into the regional high school choice lottery program for the 24/24 school year with 10 incoming slots and 10 outgoing slots with Mark Tucker as an authorized signer on behalf of the board by Erin Barry and seconded by Mark Kaufman. Motion passed.

School Safety Discussion – Patrick has had some informal discussions with the Sheriff's office for a safety officer at the school. They currently do not have anyone that could be used. Looking to be at least \$125k per year since this position would need to be a trained officer. Patrick is continuing to look at different options for school safety.

The principals will look into training for staff and will report back at a later date.

Erin asked if the principals are still hearing from parents, or has it quieted down a bit? They have not heard anything for a while.

Sara noted that she has googled some information regarding safety officers on the school grounds.

Mark Tucker noted he knows someone that could speak on this subject that has experience with using an officer. The board likes that idea.

Nuts & Bolts – Board went around and shared some final thoughts on what they have been working on.

A **motion** to adjourn by Janna Osman and seconded by Sara Cain. Motion passed.
Minutes respectfully submitted by Nicky Cole