Unapproved Minutes
Caledonia Central Supervisory Union
TWINFIELD UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
Tuesday, April 9, 2024 – 6 pm

Call to Order by Patrick Healy

Present: Patrick Healy, Mark Kaufman, Erin Barry, Janna Osman, Sara Cain, Superintendent Mark Tucker, Rachel Hartman, Stephanie Ainslie

Approve Minutes of February 28, 2024, and March 12, 2024
A motion to accept the minutes noted above by Janna Osman and seconded by Erin Barry.

High school QAF club Montreal trip request Discussion on Field Trip –
A motion to accept the Montreal itinerary by Erin Barry and seconded by Mark Kaufman. Motion passed.

School Resource Officer - (SRO)
Audio quality related to the meeting location (school cafeteria) did not result in a clear recording and this limited transcription. Comments and questions noted below cannot be attributed to specific individuals as a result.

- Mark Moody – A retired police officer and school resource officer presented on the purpose of a school resource officer and their duties. Mark spoke on education/training for a resource officer, advantages and disadvantages of having a resource officer. An SRO is a licensed police officer who is authorized to be armed. Mr. Moody acknowledged that he carried a firearm in his job, but noted that it was in a secure holster.

- With approximately 25 persons in attendance, the questions and comments from the audience could be categorized as largely opposed to the idea of having an armed police officer in the school building. One speaker cited a long list of statistics from other states that argue against the efficacy of statistics on having an SRO in the school. One argument in favor focused on the value of having a trained officer in the building to respond to an actual gun incident. A number of speakers opined that it seems to have more of a negative impact to have an armed officer.

- Mr. Moody cited alternatives to a fulltime SRO; the Board could consider a Liaison hire that would be part time. An advantage is it creates an opportunity to develop a more tangible connection between the school and law enforcement, without having an armed officer in the building. This is a new concept and would require study (the Board has *not* taken a formal position for or against hiring an SRO).

- What other options is the school looking at? Shared some statistics on having a resource officer vs not having an officer. Attendees expressed appreciation that the administration and board are looking at all options such as more in-house training etc.

- Two speakers claimed that the school no longer conducts training in de-escalation protocols (Handle with Care). Mark Tucker noted that Handle with Care is still practiced in the school.

- Montpelier no longer has an SRO – why is that? Mark Moody noted that possibly there were enough opinions against that they no longer wanted the hassle of having that position.

- Suggestion that the funds for an SRO would be better spent on more school counselors.

- Would feel better if the school was better prepared and protected. Not comfortable with what the school has in place now.

- Question on how many other schools in CCSU have a resource officer? Mark Tucker said "none."

- Question on price tag? It depends on what the school needs. Full school resource officer comes in around $125k. Positions come at all different costs – whether the school needs a full resource officer, liaison etc.

- Discussion on why this topic came up. After the threat at the school in September 2023, it became clear that a response time to a real threat would not be immediate.

- As a school they can talk about violence prevention.

- Mark Kaufman noted this is just a discussion. Mark spoke on his experiences with School Resource Officers. Mark spoke on the importance of looking at all perspectives to see what works best for Twinfield.

- Parents/families need to be looking at what they are doing to keep their guns locked up safe.

This was an informational presentation. The Board took no action.

Board Reports

Student Report – some points highlighted
- Seniors getting college decisions back
- Green Up on May 1
- Softball started
- SAT scores are coming out

Principal's Report – some points highlighted
- Earth week
- Conferences
- Kindergarten orientation
- April break
- 3rd graders are going to the State House

Board Discussion
Front porch forum communications.

Discussion on getting information on the re-vote and communicating with the public – schedule some coffee chats. Discussion on having a community dinner before the informational meeting.

A **motion** to adjourn by Janna Osman and seconded by Erin Barry. Motion passed.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nicky Cole

Future Meetings: Tuesday, May 14th, 2024 at 6 p.m. - Regular Meeting