

Approved Minutes
Caledonia Central Supervisory Union
TWINFIELD UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
Tuesday, May 21, 2024 – 6 pm

Call to Order by Patrick Healy

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

Budget Re-vote

Looking at options to reduce the budget.

Patrick Healy explained how the budget is created and then settled on.

Mark showed budget examples of what the tax rates look like by removing \$150k and \$400k in spending from the original budget.

Mark discussed what was removed from each budget to reach those deductions: one fewer leased buses, adjustments downward to SU Assessment from reflecting actual contracts for Superintendent and Asst Superintendent, staffing changes, vacant positions that will not be filled.

Michelle – concern over not filling vacant positions – what are they? It will be done by re-assignment and looking at configurations that can be done.

Lori – Question on the minutes for the hiring of the Superintendent and Asst Superintendent. There was little to no discussion on the Twinfield board side. Other districts had the conversation.

Public member - Question on positions – if the board opts to not fill vacant positions, what are those positions?

Student comment/concerns was read – cutting the budget will impact the students.

Kathy (student) - read concerns regarding cutting positions and the budget. These cuts affect the students.

George - How can hiring take place at the SU when school budgets have not been passed? SU is a separate budget that passes before the districts. Is the Athletic Director position necessary?

Student statement – read a comment on the negative impacts of cutting the budget.

Rita – thankful that the students came to read their concerns. Questions on what positions would be eliminated.

Lauren – Need to maintain a budget that allows our students to retain all the programs they need. Then moving forward, be proactive.

Ziona – Proud of the students that spoke. What positions are on the table?

Joanna – (could not hear her statement)

Debra – Many concerns about the budget and the cuts. Spoke on the renaissance program and the importance of keeping it. Would struggle to vote yes on a cut budget.

Kate – if the school cuts programs etc., students might opt to go to another school.

A \$150k budget reduction is with small cuts throughout programs.

Discussion on positions that have already been RIF'd (reduction in force).

A \$400k budget reduction would affect various programs throughout the entire school. Open positions would not be filled, and other programming would be affected.

Mark explained the timeline for the budget and the timeline that must be used for staff contracts. When budgets do not pass the first time around, then RIFs are looked at along with vacant positions that will not be filled. Contracts cannot be offered on those positions; if they cannot be honored.

Sonya – Many have voiced they would like to have the same budget brought forward.

Ana – 3 positions that were already rif'd what was the cost?

Are teacher's contracts designated to a position? They are paid by a salary schedule based on years and degree. Teachers have license endorsements that dictate what they can teach.

Public member – what core programs will be cut with the \$150k budget deduction? After school, staff positions that are open would be looked at.

Board discussion on their thoughts on which budget to put forward. Each board member shared their thoughts on which budget should be brought forward.

A **motion** to cut \$400k off the original budget by Patrick Healy. No second, motion fails.

A **motion** to cut \$150k off the original budget by Mark Kaufman and seconded by Janna Osman. Motion fails.

A **motion** to put forth the original budget by Sara Cain. No second, motion fails.

Board members shared their thoughts on what they see coming down the path in the next few years – coming down from the State level. A big concern will be school consolidation.

A **motion** to cut \$150k off the original budget by Erin Barry and seconded by Janna Osman. Motion passed.

A **motion** that the absentee ballots will be mailed out by Erin Barry and seconded by Mark Kaufman. Motion passed.

The Informational Meeting will be June 3, with the vote on June 4th.

A **motion** to approve the Ed spending amount of \$7,899,084 by Erin Barry and seconded by Janna Osman. Motion passed.

A **motion** to approve the warrant as written by Erin Barry and seconded by Janna Osman. Motion passed.

A **motion** to adjourn by Mark Kaufman and seconded by Sara Cain.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nicky Cole