

Unapproved Minutes
Caledonia Central Supervisory Union
TWINFIELD UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Call to Order by Patrick Healy

Present: Patrick Healy, Kendra Padilla, Sara Cain, Erin Barry, Asa Baer, Superintendent Matt Foster, Principal Stephanie Ainslie, Principal Rachel Hartman

Changes to Agenda: Eliminating H, J & E on agenda

Public Comment:

April 8th Minutes

A **motion** to approve the April 8th minutes by Erin Barry and seconded by Asa Baer. Motion passed.

Superintendent Report – Matt Foster was present to highlight items

Erin noted that Thursday at 6 PM, a legislative update will be happening at the library.

Budget update – Twinfield is in a good position at this point.

Principals' Report – some points highlighted

- Field trips happening for the end of year.
- School carnival is coming up.
- Rachel went over calendar dates.
- Beyond Central Vermont – Twinfield hosted and had visitors looking at math and science across the school. Highlights reflected – outdoor learning, culture of community and respect, culture of mentorship, renaissance program.
- Performing Arts position – open position. Twinfield has had two music teachers. Stephanie went over the access to music/band that each grade has. With one of the music teachers retiring, will look to replace that position with a wide range for performing arts. Will wait to see what responses are received for the open position. Hoping to find an individual that can wear multiple hats.

Public Comment: Some points captured -

Lila – really love that they are looking to expand the performing arts but band and performing arts are completely different. Feels like the school needs a full-time band teacher.

Lily – band is a big part of her life. Lily made a survey to the school; most students are in band or would like to be in band. Preference for a band over theatre.

Louise – loves the band program.

Cora – theatre is available outside of school, but the band does not have that availability.

Stewart – both band and theatre are important, but band feels crucial.

Jeff – theatre opportunities abound in the community. Band is very technical and needs to be a band trained candidate.

Liz – retired music teacher. Spoke on the importance of the position.

Clark – would be devastating to lose this position. Twinfield has a high turnover of staff. Disheartening to see the staff feeling unsupported and leaving. What is being done to build a team and retain talent.

VSTRS Presentation – Dawn Neddo from the State. Dawn gave an overview of how the teacher's pension system works. The system looks at years of service and salary earned. Dawn shared how the pension amount is calculated. Teachers can retire, then unfreeze and go back into the system. Teachers pay in a percentage of their salary each year.

Return to public comment -

Leland – involved in the band program and main concern is that the position is hired with a qualified candidate.

Allie – representing Winooski Valley Central Vermont Music – read a letter regarding concerns.

Shane Hinkley – Music teacher at Twinfield. Vermont Music Assoc is lending support and resources as Twinfield navigates this. There is a shared desire to serve every student.

Andy – Music teacher in Stowe. Read a few letters from former students of Twinfield. Also strongly recommends the board to speak with Johnny Flood at Cabot who holds both positions and what the day-to-day look likes.

Danielle – It would be a total shame to lose any part of the program.

Nick – Vermont Music Assoc. Read a few statements. Twinfield has a high population of students interested in band.

Public – so much is done that is not seen. There is no way that someone can do a split position well.

Michelle – School board wants community engagement. Unfair and improper to cut down public comment. Absolute mistake to try and combine programs or cut the band program.

Land Stewardship Committee /Twinfield Lower Fields - Emily Merrill, Charlie Walter
Shared view of the changing landscape of the fields. Looking at ways to rejuvenate the changed landscape. Working with experts, the brook is unstable, and sentiment will continue to flood the fields. Emily spoke on student involvement and hands-on learning with the changing landscape. Environmental and natural hazard education for the students. Hoping to create a community committee and management plan.

Sarah – where is the job being advertised? School Spring and Indeed. Thoughts on where Twinfield can advertise. Matt spoke on to who he has reached out to.

Kaitlyn – Why was it decided to change the program? Why are students interested in theatre not being encouraged to attend the Cabot Community Arts? Stephanie spoke on the reasoning.

If this is being based off student interest – how have students been engaged in the process?

Mike – spoke on the importance of the band program.

Erin – Music brings joy. Community engagement is wonderful.

Ruth – stated the importance of music on a disciplined level.

Public – nothing should change.

Mary – Where would theatre take place? Also, concern if we lose a piece of band, students might opt to go to other schools.

Gigi – thank you to everyone that has come to speak on the importance of the program. Spoke on the importance of the program.

Public – Mr. Gibson has been amazing. Spoke on the importance of the program.

Brian – Thoughts on how the position(s) can be funded and licensing.

Michelle – Amazing to see how much the community supports the music program. Mr. Gibson should collaborate with the administration on the job description.

Lily – students had no idea this was happening.

Mike – is there a student council? There is a student council for high school working on creating one for middle school. Maybe start the theatre program as an afterschool program to see engagement.

Student – sees the value of the band program. It includes so many like minded students.

Public – before programs are altered, would it be possible to survey the community first.

Discussion on updating job description and listing.

Discussion on posting of board meetings and getting information out to the community.

Tammy – so appreciate the community and board members. Band and theatre are both important. Could a survey be put out to the community to collect all thoughts.

Erin – look at the costs for a part time drama teacher.

Honorable Mention – Keith Gibson.

Keith was asked questions and Erin shared his answers.

Montreal Trip – a **motion** to approve the Montreal trip by Erin Barry and seconded by Sara Cain. Motion approved.

New Hires – Executive Session

A **motion** to move into executive session by Erin Barry and seconded by Asa Baer. Motion passed.

A **motion** to hire the recommended positions listed below by Erin Barry and seconded by Asa Baer. Motion passed.

New hire recommendation - PreK - Tateese Crown

New hire recommendation - Secondary STEM - Caleb Corliss

New hire recommendation - MS Humanities - Annie Boudreau

TAN – Tax Anticipation Note

\$1,172,000 TAN needed to start the year.

A **motion** to approve the TAN with Passumpsic Savings Bank by Erin Barry and seconded by Sara Cain. Motion passed.

Civil Discourse – Kendra looked at EQS and the Civil Discourse. Noted differences or items not covered. Attorneys noted if the EQS covers what the school is looking for, it might be best not to create a new policy.

Next board meeting – there will be a request for PD using unrestricted funds.

A **motion** to adjourn by Erin Barry and seconded by Asa Baer. Motion passed.

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Nicky Cole