

Approved Minutes
Caledonia Central Supervisory Union
TWINFIELD UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
Tuesday, May 14, 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, Marianna Cleary

Public Comment: none

Consent Agenda:

Minutes from April 3, 2024, April 9, 2024 & May 1, 2024

A **motion** to accept the minutes by Mark Kaufman and seconded by Janna Osman. Motion passed.

Superintendent Report – Mark Tucker was present. Some points highlighted -

- Legislature adjourned – been a messy session. The yield bill was passed – a slight increase that would help with the tax rate. Not sure at this point, it will stand.
- Bill pausing the PCB testing – does not affect Twinfield.

Question on the literacy bill – not sure.

Principals Report – points highlighted

- Field trips planned
- Community Night
- Car seat baby check available for families
- School wide Carnival – end of year celebration
- 8th Grade Step Up
- Graduation
- Last week was teacher appreciation week
- 8th Grade Trips – focus on leadership

Student Services Report – SLP for next year has been covered in-house for next year. Mark explained the child count collection.

Student Report – Marianna Cleary

- Prom is coming up – tickets are on sale
- Carnival
- Renaissance final presentations are taking place
- Yearbook has been released

TAN – Tax Anticipation Note

The note covers the school operating expenses until tax revenues come in during late fall.

Mark explained how the TAN and investment account work together to gain interest. Every year it is put out to bid. Passumpsic Savings Bank is the bank we will use again this year. TAN amount this year is \$1,247,679.00

A **motion** to approve the TAN with PSB in the amount of \$1,247,679 by Janna Osman and seconded by Erin Barry. Motion passed.

FY25 Budget Revote -

Patrick Healy explained the local budget process and the SU budget process. The SU budget is set and approved by the SU board (made up of members from each school board) and then assessed to each district by allocation. Mark Tucker explained what makes up the SU budget. Questions on how Special Education works and what helps to fund those expenses.

Some of the public talking points -

It was noted by the public that many in the town do not understand that the SU budget is not negotiable at this point. The Asst Superintendent position cannot be cut. Patrick spoke on why an Asst Superintendent is necessary. At this point, only the local budget can be cut.

Question on if Twinfield can leave the Supervisory Union? No, the State would not allow Twinfield to stand alone – they would have to create a finance office, hire a Superintendent etc. It would not save Twinfield money.

Health care cost premiums are up. Are employees being asked to cover part of this? Yes, teachers pay 20% and Support Staff will pay 18%. The district pays for most of the premiums. We do not have control over the cost of the premiums. The percentage that employees pay is negotiated with the union.

Discussion on discretionary and non-discretionary spending.

The afterschool program has been grant funded for the past few years – this year it has gone back to local funding. To lower discretionary funding – the afterschool program can be cut, and the school can try to scale back on staffing and programs.

Question on how to have a voice in the SU budget? Pay attention to the meetings and contact your local school board members that sit on the SU board. All meetings are open meetings and posted.

How do schools fund lunch? During Covid there were federal funds, now the State has increased their reimbursement rate for meals. These funds cannot be paid for staffing but can be used for food costs. Schools at this point can offer free breakfast and lunch for students and the reimbursable rate is close to covering all food costs.

Are there thoughts with the board that the budget is not passing due to dissatisfaction with the school itself? Yes, those thoughts are always there.

Thoughts on cutting the Co-Principal position? Twinfield has had two administrators for a long time.

Other services at the SU level – what is that line item made up of? There are three parts to this change:

- The move of a position from one Function Code to another (2120 to 2131)
\$55,720 increase in 2131, reduction in the same amount in 2120
- Health Care Election increases (employees change tiers in the pan \$45,772
- An assessment (\$30,402) to TUS for their share of the cost of the floating LNAs that support school nurses across the SU

Question on the CLA and what control does the town have over it? None. Mark explained how the CLA works.

Thought on having more parents involved to help with the extra programs and keep the costs down.

Before Covid how was the afterschool program funded? There was a charge per day for students attending with a sliding fee attached for those that qualified.

Library para position that is being RIF'd. It is an important position.

Stephanie read some online thoughts regarding the budget.

Discussion on whether the budget can be presented as is or cut a minimal amount for revote. The board is listening to all ideas and thoughts from the community.

It was mentioned that it is important for voters to understand factors being driven by the State that local budgets have no control over.

Mark Tucker showed the Income Sensitivity tax rates.

The board has listened to all the comments and will take the feedback and meet again next week to come to some decisions.

The board would like to see a few scaled back budgets and the ramifications that they come with. A **motion** to have the administration bring forth a zero change to the tax rate budget and a 1.5% deduction of the spending by Erin Barry and seconded by Mark Kaufman. Motion passed.

A **motion** to adjourn by Janna Osman and seconded by Mark Kaufman.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nicky Cole