

TROY SCHOOL
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING (REGULAR)
Troy School
Thursday, November 2, 2017

APPROVED MINUTES

- I. Call the Meeting to Order: Gaston called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.
Recite the Pledge of Allegiance: Recited to open the meeting.
Additions or Adjustments to the Agenda:
- Item II.: Remove 'Fall Community Forum' - postponed to December 7 Board meeting.
 - Item VIII. A: Remove 'Ratify teachers' negotiated agreement' – ratified/approved at October 19 Board meeting
 - Item V.Discussion A: add 'Planning for Annual School District Meeting'
 - Add 'Cricket Blanchard' as an attendee.
- II. Public Comments, Communication with Parents/Staff/Citizens:
- Fall Community Forum – “NCSU’s Plan to Meet Act 46 Goals” [*item removed from agenda*]
 - Recognized 2 attendees; no comments.
- III. Approve minutes of October 19, 2017 (Attachment A)
- Gaston requested adding 'The Board agreed to Cliff’s recommendation to move agenda item III (Public Comments, Communication with Parents/Staff/Citizens) to after agenda item VII (Superintendent’s Report) to allow public comments to be made with the Superintendent present’ to agenda item III.
 - Cliff indicated that he wished he had chosen his words more carefully wanting to edit the minutes to reflect that his statement was directed at the Chair (and not to others present).
MOTION to accept the minutes of October 19, as corrected. Forster/**APPROVED**
- IV. Program Presentation
Information: TS Annual Report
Chris provided an overview of the 2017 TS Annual Report.
- Gaston noted the small 8th grade class sizes of 2016 and 2017 asking about the circumstances preceding such a decline in class size. Chris indicated that TS out-migration rate is balanced by a nearly equal in-migration rate with no net change in total school enrollment. However, class sizes may increase or decrease as there is no way to equally distribute either the loss of or addition of students equally across grades.
 - Chris highlighted that Troy student participation in athletics at NCUHS has increased over the past 3 years. The overall rate is considered low as participation in other extracurricular activities (e.g., band, chorus) is difficult to ascertain and so is not included in the report. That student participation in extracurricular activities leads to academic success supports focusing on this important metric.
 - Gaston suggested that the Annual Report be an important reference for Troy School District annual meeting discussions.
 - Gaston indicated that NCSU staff, Dr. Edith Beatty, Director of Learning Design and Ms. Leanne Desjardins, Director of Special Education, were available to attend local Board meetings in the coming months. It was agreed that the Board invite Dr. Beatty to address local academic assessments in contrast to SBAC testing with Ms. Desjardins following focusing on how SPED supports aid student achievement.
 - Gaston and Chris will coordinate a meeting date and time (ensuring allotted time allows for discussion without extending meeting duration).
- V. Financial Report
Action:
- A. Approve warrants: **MOTION** to approve warrants totaling \$161,522.95. Bathalon/**APPROVED**
 - B. Approve financial report of October, 2017 (Attachment B)

- Cliff requested reinstating inclusion of a tracking summary report listing expense accounts with total anticipated expenses exceeding budgeted expenses by \$1,000.00 or more.
- Chris was concerned the copier lease (Technology: 01-100-2230-5400-00-209-10) balance was overspent by \$5,318.70 (noting that, apparently, the lease had not been budgeted). However, he believes this is an error and asked that the account with budgeted monies for the copier lease be identified.
- Chris also identified contracted services for Sharp School, Powerschool, Leasing Management, and TelePresence Maintenance software (Technology: 01-100-2230-5330-00-209-10, 01-100-2230-5330-01-209-10, 01-100-2230-5331-00-209-10, 01-100-2230-5333-01-209-10, respectively) as being underbudgeted and needing money transfer to cover the costs.
- Gaston asked for clarification on budgeting/accounting for food service revenues and expenses. Chris provided background indicating that the food service program is meant to be self supporting. In the past reimbursement for meals served was based on student count (full and free and reduced costs). Cliff indicated the Board approved the TS to serve meals (breakfast and lunch) at no charge to all students under the Vermont Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). A program, currently in its second year at TS, that reduces reimbursement to TS. Mary Lou is active in applying for (and receiving) grants to supplement reimbursements. Chris indicated that many Vermont-based grants require matching funds. The quality of meals served at TS was underscored by parents in attendance. In the end, the Board provides funds if expenses exceed revenues.

MOTION to approve the October 2017 TS financial report. BATHALON/APPROVED

Discussion:

A. FY19 budget context and considerations / planning for annual School District meeting [*agenda add*]

- Gaston reviewed the need for the Board to prepare its report to the voters of Troy, set an agenda, possibly develop a trifold (as last year) as a mailout ahead of Town Meeting, and be prepared to review, as last year, the VT AOE Three Prior Years Comparison, against the proposed 2019 budget.
- General consensus supported preparing a trifold and use the VT AOE Three Prior Years Comparison (felt to be well received last year).
- External pressures to the School District including: SEC of Education Holcomb's assertion that state taxes will increase, loss of Small Schools Grant (anticipated), and the Governor's withhold of state education funding (revenue). That TS has a student:staff ratio of 4.37 and 4.57 (excluding preK) exceeds the state average of 4.30 and 4.25 for 2016 and 2017, respectively, was noted (data as provided by the AoE). Further, TS is above state averages for student:teacher, teacher:administrator, and student:administrator ratio was noted (data provided by AoE for 2016-2017 school year).

VI. Principal's Report

Action:

- Chris recommended the Board approve Mary Lou's request to use unpaid leave.
Motion to approve Mary Lou Bonneau's request for one day of unpaid leave. FORSTER/APPROVED
- Chris reported Hono Wells, TS Athletic Coordinator, will assume coaching duties for boys and girls basketball teams waiving the coaches stipends. Chris recommended that budgeted coaches stipends be distributed to assistant coaches.
Motion to pay assistant boys and girls basketball coaches a stipend (typically reserved for coaches). FORSTER/APPROVED
- The need to repair/prevent leaks resulting from ice dams forming on the preK modular classroom was stressed (and acknowledged by the Board). Regretably, this was not addressed earlier. Cliff was concerned that the price of materials, from a Connecticut-based supplier, appeared high. After much discussion Chris was to work with John to approach 2-3 local suppliers/vendors for (hopefully) a cheaper price for the same materials than that quoted.
Motion for Chris to proceed with repairs to the preK modular classroom paying the best price as quoted by local vendors. FORSTER/APPROVED
- **Motion** to accept the Principal's report. BATHALON/APPROVED

VII. Superintendent's Report (Attachment C)

- A. Review and input to Alternative Governance Structure Proposal.
- Gaston reported that the supporting documentation to the Alternative Governance Structure Proposal was extensive. Board members had no input to the proposal.

VIII. Unfinished/New Business

Action:

A. Ratify teachers' negotiated agreement [*Removed from agenda*]

B. Insurance buyout

- Gaston read from an email from Nancy Griffith, NCSU Human Resources Coordinator- Personnel, explaining that this action was "whether or not the District wants to offer a \$2,000 buyout to staff that may take health insurance coverage elsewhere." The buyout could be an incentive for staff to seek insurance coverage thru their spouse and receive \$2000.00 – thereby, saving the district money.
- Chris indicated that TS staff would likely be affected from this Board action.
- Gaston was unable to respond to questions to clarify the specific details of the buyout. Further, it was not clear whether this was a required Board action preceding his approval (and signature) of teacher contract addendums with their new salaries on Friday, November 3.
- The Board felt it did not have sufficient details to render an informed decision.

MOTION to table further discussion and action on the insurance buyout offer to the December 7 meeting.

FORSTER/APPROVED

IX. Next Regular Board Meeting: December 7, 2017

Suggested Agenda Items: Fall Community Forum – "NCSU's Plan to Meet Act 46 Goals"; update on TS District Annual Meeting; signage placement on school property; review of Safe Routes for School federal funding grant requirements (Village of North Troy Trustees would team with TS with a grant submission); insurance buyout; quarterly building tour (pushed to FEB meeting with John to provide status of program/list to prioritize and track status of building maintenance issues identified by staff).

X. Executive Session: N/A

XI. Adjourn: Having completed all items on the regular agenda Gaston adjourned the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gaston Bathalon

Present

Gaston Bathalon, Chair
Allyson Bathalon
Cliff Forster

In Attendance:

Administration:



John Castle, Superintendent, NCSU (arrived after meeting adjournment)
Chris Young, Principal, Troy School

Community/Staff:

Andrea Machado
Dawn Greenwood