

THETFORD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Tuesday, September 6, 2016
Oxbow High School

APPROVED MINUTES

Charlie Buttrey convened the meeting at 6:07 p.m.. The following were present: Julie Acker, Charlie Buttrey, Kristen Downey, Scott MacPhee, School Board; Kevin Petrone, TES Principal

PUBLIC PRESENT: Sandra Stanley, OESU

AGENDA REVIEW: Agenda approved.

MINUTES REVIEW: MOTION: (MacPhee/Acker) moved/seconded to approve the minutes of the August 23 Board meeting (unanimous approval).

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF ORDERS: MOTION: (Acker/MacPhee) moved/seconded to approve accounts payable orders # 5588, 5526 and 5525, and payroll warrant # 5543 (unanimous approval).

PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE: Stanley presented a Preschool Partnership Agreement. MOTION: (Acker/MacPhee) moved/seconded to approve the Pre-kindergarten Partnership Agreement with Norwich Nursery School. (unanimous approval). Stanley presented contracts for Sarah Ireland as a long term paraeducator substitute, and for teacher Bren Bennet's advancement. Discussion followed on the salary grid, Buttrey and Petrone will verify the grid placement prior to approving the contract.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT (Kevin Petrone):

The elementary school welcomed 191 students back to school on 8/31/16. There are about 15 new students across grades 1-6. In the days prior to the students arrival, the teachers held an inservice with Theresa Dempsey from the Buck Institute on implementing Project Based Learning. The staff came away from this great training with many project ideas, common language, examples to follow, and assurance that TES is on the right track with implementing this initiative. Downey attended some of the sessions and asked how the school plans to keep the momentum going? Petrone replied that collaboration is a key component, and that all staff will be holding each other accountable for implementation and outcomes. Tools such as sharing calendars and timelines on google docs are already being used. He has also seen a shift in how teachers approached the start of the school year. For example, Mr. LaRoche decided to challenge his 6th graders with determining their classroom needs and calculate what supplies they needed to purchase.

The students and staff are really appreciating the updates to the playground, and there are more improvements to come. The mural for the climbing wall is currently being painted by Beth McGee and Doug Moody, the pump track is a big hit, and the mini-park is being enjoyed by all ages. Many thanks to all who worked over the summer, a celebration will be planned soon. Discussion followed on details.

Petrone shared draft questions for an online exit survey for families. On average, TES loses 1 student per year to other programs. Discussion followed on the questions. MacPhee suggested an open question at the end for families to leave other thoughts. Downey suggested a question to better understand how families came to the decision to go to a different program, like “what resources did you use in making this decision?”. Acker suggested collecting demographics at the start (age/grade, number of students in family, etc.). Petrone will continue to work with Buttrey on the survey.

ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: (Downey/MacPhee) moved/seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. (unanimous approval).

FUTURE MEETINGS

9/20/16 Thetford Town School District Board Meeting

6:30 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Julie Acker, Board Clerk