

Thornton School Board
Monday, April 26, 2010
Minutes

Board members present: Scot Woolfenden, Giff Kriebel, Cara Towers, Teri Gabbeitt,
Barry VanDeMoere
Administration present: SAU 48 Assistant Superintendent Kathy Boyle
Principal Jonathan Bownes
Public: Annette Magowan, Susan Fort, Lori Cooper, Charlene Mathews,
Christine Carpenter, Missy Rivers

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

I. Agenda Review and Disposition – None

II. Minutes of March 22, 2010

On a motion by Giff Kriebel, seconded by Barry VanDeMoere, the Board voted unanimously to accept the March 22, 2010 minutes as written.

III. Principal's Report

Mr. Bownes reported the Academic Fair/K-4 Spring Concert went well. He would like feedback regarding the new format (incorporating the K-4 Spring Concert within the Academic Fair evening).

The baseball and softball season open on May 4 with a home game against Campton.

The National Junior Honor Society induction ceremony will take place on Wednesday, May 5th at 7:00 p.m.

National Teacher Day is on Tuesday, May 4 – the Board will discuss this during nonpublic.

The grades 5-8 Spring Concert will be held on Thursday, May 27.

The annual eighth grade trip to Boston and Six Flags will take place on June 10 & 11.

Graduation Day is scheduled for Monday, June 14, 2010.

On a motion by Barry VanDeMoere, seconded by Giff Kriebel, the Board voted unanimously in favor of having graduation on June 14, 2010.

An information booklet on lead paint testing for renovation projects in buildings constructed before 1978 was handed out. Testing will take place when students/staff are not in the building.

Construction safety has been reviewed with the staff; outside duty coverage will be increased. The exterior stairwell has been removed and a temporary set of stairs installed. The construction area has been fenced off.

Mr. Bownes reported the new reading series will cost \$37,000. \$30,000 will be paid from the 2010-11 budget and the balance to come from the 2011-12 school year budget if not covered through grants.

It was the consensus of the Board to proceed with the new reading series, Reading Street, for grades K-5.

Mr. Bownes reported the recent spaghetti dinner raised over \$700 for the Thornton Historical Society.

Barry VanDeMoere thought this was a great idea and felt it was wonderful to give back to the community.

IV. Building Update

Scot Woolfenden reported the bid numbers were very good. Bids came in at \$1,669,000 and the bonded amount was \$1,667,000. It was requested to keep the library costs separated. Any building costs related to the project spent this year can also be counted. Construction will start in earnest on May 3. The construction project contract was handed out for review. The next building meeting will be May 5 at 9:00 a.m. It was suggested that a letter be sent to parents and signs put up stating the playground is closed due to construction during the summer. It will also be in the weekly notices until the end of school.

V. Privilege of the Floor #1

Parents present questioned the Board regarding which classes would be combined or not and who the teachers would be for each class. Second grade will be combined and first grade has a possibility of being split due to increased enrollment numbers. At this point teaching assignments have not been completed. The parents requested clarification on which teachers would be returning next year. Mr. Bownes stated that Mrs. Gagnon, Mrs. Sterner, and Mrs. McDaniel were not issued contracts. They questioned why the kindergarten teacher was returning when her salary was not voted back into the budget. The Board stated they were not able to discuss personnel issues. The parents also stated there was an immense level of

frustration within the community in regards to the way one of the teachers handled herself during the school year. They were not happy with the letters she mailed home to individuals or comments made to students, parents, and community members. The Board reiterated they were not at liberty to discuss personnel issues and the proper channel was to contact the building principal or the superintendent's office. Giff Kriebel explained the collective bargaining process. Charlene Mathews commended the Board for their efforts during this process; the others present praised the Board and stated they do support them for all they have done.

Feedback from parents regarding the Academic Fair/K-4 Spring Concert format was given. Some liked it, some thought the concert was too short, it was hard with more than one child, and there needed to be more information sent home regarding the evening's events so that parents could plan.

The Board thanked them for their input and the parents left at 6:00 p.m.

VI. Discussion Items

A. AYP – The Thornton school has met AYP in all categories. Special education students met Safe Harbor (this means special education students showed enough growth in one year). The District Summary Report includes out of District placements; the District did not make AYP in this category.

B. Abbreviated Budget Report – the District continues to look good for this time of the year.

C. Calendar – The 2010-11 school year calendar was reviewed. Discussion took place. Two half day in-service days were added; October 27 and March 23.

On a motion by Barry VanDeMoere, seconded by Cara Towers, the Board voted unanimously in favor to accept the 2010-11 school year calendar.

D. Other – none

VII. Recognition and Awards

Mr. Bownes recognized Diane George and Jen Wrath for a superb project completed for the Academic Fair night. Giff Kriebel recognized Pauline Hicks for organizing the spaghetti dinner fundraiser for the Thornton Historical Society.

VIII. Privilege of the Floor #2 – Add future meeting dates to May 24 agenda.

IX. Nonpublic

On a motion by Barry VanDeMoere, seconded by Teri Gabbeitt, the Board voted unanimously in favor to enter nonpublic session.

The Board entered nonpublic session at 6:39 p.m. to discuss personnel and student issues.

On a motion by Teri Gabbeitt, seconded by Giff Kriebel, the Board voted unanimously in favor to enter public session.

The Board entered public session at 7:45 p.m.

On a motion by Barry VanDeMoere, seconded by Giff Kriebel, the Board voted unanimously in favor to encourage Bruce Blackburn to use his 2009-10 vacation days before the end of the school year but will approve 5 days carried into the 2010-2011 school year if needed.

On a motion by Barry VanDeMoere, seconded by Cara Towers, the Board voted unanimously in favor to accept with regrets the resignation of Kristine Sterner.

On a motion by Barry VanDeMoere, seconded by Teri Gabbeitt, the Board voted unanimously in favor to accept the 2010-11 slate of support staff nominations as presented.

On a motion by Barry VanDeMoere, seconded by Teri Gabbeitt, the Board voted unanimously in favor to accept the nominations of teachers Amy Gagnon and Tanya McDaniel for the 2010-11 school year as discussed.

On a motion by Teri Gabbeitt, seconded by Barry VanDeMoere, the Board voted unanimously in favor to accept with regrets the resignation of Ann Pisaneschi-Palma.

On a motion by Barry VanDeMoere, seconded by Cara Towers, the Board voted 4 in favor with 1 abstention to nominate Paula Amenta to a 30% Teacher Assistant position for the 2010-11 school year.

On a motion by Barry VanDeMoere, seconded by Cara Towers, the Board voted unanimously in favor to accept the employment contract with Jonathan Bownes.

On a motion by Barry VanDeMoere, seconded by Teri Gabbeitt, the Board voted unanimously in favor to execute the construction project contract with Conneston Construction, Inc.

On a motion by Barry VanDeMoere, seconded by Cara Towers, the Board voted unanimously in favor to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Tyler
Board Secretary