

TRSU BOARD

Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 13, 2020

5:30 p.m.

Zoom Access

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

TRSU Board: Dan Buckley, Joe Fromberger, Jeff Hance, Paul Orzechowski, Dave Venter

Staff: Meg Powden, Cheryl Hammond, Lauren Fierman, Michael Ripley, Craig Hutt Vater, Jenn Harper, Patty Rumrill, Deanna Romstad, Lauren Baker

Public:

Mr. Orzechowski called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mr. Venter **moved** to approve the agenda. The motion to approve the agenda carried without opposition.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Recommendation for New Hires

Ms. Powden reported that Becky Tobey retired as the literacy coach at the Mt. Holly school. The position is 1.0 and is funded through Title 1 funds. They posted the position but didn't get the candidates they had anticipated. She advised that Ms. Tobey was willing to come back part time (.5 fte) and they will post the position at .5 fte for the other portion of the time needed. Mr. Hutt Vater spoke well about her experience in teaching kids and helping faculty learn the Foundations curriculum.

This will be two half time positions, with the other half time position being filled with a transfer from BRHS: Nicki Meoni. She is also excited to learn about the literacy instruction and will need to have a provisional license to complete the coursework to become licensed. Ms. Tobey would be her direct mentor. She described again the funding from the Title I funding through consolidated federal grants. There is some local funding in the budgets. Mr. Fromberger questioned how much of the position is locally funded. Ms. Powden advised that previously the position was an 80/20 split between grants and local funding. Mr. Venter questioned if the combined salary is less than what Ms. Tobey was receiving before. Ms. Powden advised that she would have to check, but believed since Ms. Meoni is less experienced, the total pay would be less. There was discussion about the combined prorated benefits. There was discussion about Ms. Meoni not wanting full time work. Mr. Hance questioned if this position is necessary to be a full-time position. Ms. Powden advised that she believed that it was based on the needs of the students and especially now with remote learning. Mr. Hutt Vater discussed how the small group and individual lessons for literacy coaching are conducted.

There was discussion about how education will be conducted in the fall with social distancing. Mr. Fromberger was reluctant to commit because he felt unsure that they would need to do this

next year. Ms. Powden advised that this is a critical position for the elementary schools. There are literacy interventionists as well as math interventionists in all the elementary schools. These positions can help some students stay off IEP's and special education caseloads. There was discussion about whether this position is "paid now" or "paid later" with student need.

Mr. Hutt Vater agreed that there was uncertainty, but in the current form of distance learning, Ms. Tobey is currently teaching literacy remotely.

Mr. Venter **moved** to approve hiring Ms. Tobey at .5 fte as a literacy coach. Ms. Powden explained that Ms. Meoni is a transfer that is approved through the superintendent. Ms. Tobey needs the motion because she has retired. The motion carried with Mr. Fromberger abstaining and no opposition.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

VI. NEXT MEETING:

The next regular TRSU meeting will be Thursday June 4, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., via Zoom.

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Venter **moved** to adjourn at 5:47 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Amber Wilson
Board Recording Secretary