

# TRSU BOARD

## Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 1, 2019

6:00 p.m.

CTES, Art Room

### I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

**Board:** Joe Fromberger, Wayne Wheelock, Jeff Hance, Dan Buckley (via phone)

**Staff:** Meg Powden, Mary Barton, Deb Beaupre, Linda Waite

**Other Board Members:** Rick Alexander

**Public:** Shawn Cunningham

Mr. Fromberger called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. He invited the board members to introduce themselves.

### II. APPROVE AGENDA:

Mr. Buckley **moved** to approve the agenda. Mr. Wheelock seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

### III. APPROVE MINUTES:

#### A. June 6, 2019 Regular Meeting

Mr. Hance **moved** to approve the minutes from the June 6 meeting. Mr. Buckley seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

#### B. June 12, 2019 Special Meeting

Mr. Wheelock **moved** to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2019 meeting. Mr. Hance seconded. Mr. Cunningham reminded the board that they approved small board rules. The motion carried unanimously.

### IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Buckley thanked the TRSU employees for the card they sent him.

### V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Ms. Powden reported that the administrative council will be going on retreat next week using professional development funds. They will be going to Killington Mountain Lodge and the retreat will be facilitated by Judy Carr. The teacher leaders will be joining on Wednesday. She shared a list of the new hires throughout the SU with the board members. She advised that a number of teachers have retired or resigned and there has been some turnover in the para-educator staff. They will be holding a new teacher orientation on August 14 and August 15 at GMUHS.

Ms. Powden reported that the ASP summer program is being held at a camp in Ludlow. She reported that the kids from each of the schools are participating together and she acknowledged Ms. White's vision in making this a success. She reported that this is the only camp-type summer ASP program in the state. She also noted that this is the first summer that she has not had to deal with Act 46 or its aftermath and it is refreshing to do actual superintendent work in its place.

Mr. Alexander questioned if there was discussion about holding a CAES summer program. Ms. Powden noted that this was intentional in order to give them activities together. Mr. Alexander asked if they had asked the town of Chester's rec department to be able to use the pool and rec center as a resource. Mr. Alexander noted that there is a bussing expense and liability issues with the transport of Chester students that they should consider.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS:**

### **A. Policies, Second Read/Approval**

Ms. Waite noted that the GMUSD board sent the policies back to the policy committee with changes requested. The policy committee is meeting next week. Further discussion was tabled.

### **B. Recommendation for Hire**

Ms. Powden reported that she and Ms. Barton are recommending Marcy Gillam as a special educator at LES. She reported that Ms. Gillam has worked at LES in the past. Ms. Barton reported on her education and work history. She advised that she has worked with preschool through 6<sup>th</sup> grade and has had training on teaching reading and math as well as co-teaching. Mr. Wheelock **moved** to approve the recommendation and hire Ms. Gillam as a special educator for TRSU. The motion carried unanimously.

### **C. Meeting Location**

Mr. Fromberger reminded the board of their discussion at the last meeting regarding the meeting location. Mr. Buckley suggested option 4 so people didn't have to travel very far. He then suggested tabling discussion until the next meeting when more board members could be present. The board discussed having to set the next meeting location today. Mr. Wheelock **moved** to hold the next meeting at the Roost. The motion carried unanimously.

### **D. Personnel Handbook, Revised**

The handbook has been submitted to VSBIT for review of language.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS:**

### **A. Consolidated Federal Program**

Ms. Waite distributed the CFP funding plan. She explained that it is very similar to last year's plan, but anticipated that they will receive about \$1000 more in Title I and about \$2000 less in Title II, but the numbers are not yet finalized.

Ms. Waite explained the projections and allocations, noting that they run on the same schedule as the school fiscal year. So far, the state has only awarded 90% of the year's allocations, but the remaining 10% will be awarded to the SU in a couple years, but they are assured that they will receive them. She advised that Title I funds are only to be used for remediation and therefore are used to support 4.8 fte positions that provide school-wide services for students in need of additional help. Title II funds are for professional development use. Title IV funds are to be used for safe and healthy schools as well as STEM. She reported that last year was the first year that they received these funds. She reported that last year they also received Title V-B funds which are given to schools in rural areas that meet a certain criterion. These funds are used to support teacher leaders.

Ms. Waite advised that they are required to withhold funds for parental involvement for each elementary school as well as homeless service funds. The SU is entitled to consolidated administration funds which amount to about 10% of the allocation, but typically they don't use all of those funds. This leaves them with about \$347,000 in Title I funds to be allocated. The cost of the 4.8 positions is over \$450,000. There is \$60,000 for the positions is listed in each school's budget. The remaining shortfall will need to be met with carry over and other Title funds. She explained the fund

allocation with the other Title funds. In the FY20 grant, the positions are a .5 fte K-6 math coach which has been in place for several years, a .5 fte 7-10 literacy coach. They are also looking to expand to another literacy coach, as well as fund some additional coaching positions for a program called Foundations. She explained the various transfers that will need to happen for the funding. She reported funding for initiatives involving responsive classroom programming, STEM, technology and safe and healthy schools. They will be discussing some of the various options for meeting the requirements of each of the title funds.

She noted that the board is required to make a motion regarding the funds in order to receive the funds. There was discussion about the use of the funds and whether they are only for elementary school or for high school as well. Ms. Waite advised that the majority of the funds are geared toward K-6, but there is a portion of Title II and Title IV that are geared toward high schools. Mr. Buckley **moved** to authorize the TRSU to accept the Consolidated Federal Program grants and administer them on behalf of the schools and act as a representative of the member school districts. The motion carried unanimously.

**VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Mr. Alexander questioned if the funding would be able to be broken out by school to see where the funding is going to be used. Mr. Fromberger noted that the SU could provide that.

The recording secretary read aloud an excerpt from the GMUSD minutes from their July 18 meeting regarding asking the board to follow the GMUSD cure for the open meeting law violations. Ms. Powden suggested tabling any action since there is only one representative from LMHUUSD at the meeting and the board chair himself is not present.

Mr. Fromberger suggested tabling it and adding it to the next meeting agenda. Mr. Buckley noted that no action can be taken under public comments.

There was discussion about whether the TRSU first budget draft will be available at the next meeting. Ms. Powden advised that the first draft will be available in October. There was discussion about them having about 3 months to approve a budget at that point.

**IX. NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be Thursday, September 5, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the Roost

**X. ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Hance **moved** to adjourn at 6:39 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Amber Wilson  
Board Recording Secretary