

**TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

Minutes – January 18, 2017

Mr. Guthrie, Acting Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Members Present:

David Bento, Medfield
Douglas Brown, Seekonk
Paul Carbone, Franklin
Jonathan Dowse, Sherborn
Robert Guthrie, Secretary, North Attleboro
Louis Hoegler, Walpole
Linda Reynolds, Medway
Robert Wilkinson, Plainville
Janice Young, Walpole

Members Not Present:

Steven Trask, Chairman, Franklin
Donna Cabibbo, Vice Chair, Millis
Adeline Bee, North Attleboro
Kathi Hamilton, Norfolk

Others Present:

Steve Dockray, Superintendent
Michael Procaccini, Principal

SECRETARY'S REPORT

A motion was made by Ms. Young and seconded by Ms. Reynolds that the minutes of the December 21, 2016 School Committee meeting be approved as submitted.

Motion passed with two abstentions.

INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Dockray introduced Mr. Thomas Shanahan, Director of Facilities Management.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

None at this time.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Bill Galligan reported on the following current and future activities of students:

- Mid-year exams taking place this week and last week
- Last week of exploratories for freshmen; students will choose top three picks by end of week.
- Juniors finishing-up their senior project papers and deciding on a project.
- Seniors busy with college applications; acceptance letters starting to arrive.
- Senior Project presentations have begun. First time presenting for the Legal & Protective program.
- Seniors and juniors continue with their AP Mass Insight classes
- Ski Club has begun; going to Wachusett this Saturday
- Robotics Club continues with their after school building and practicing
- Robotics competition taking place during February vacation
- Girls Varsity Basketball is 4 and 3; Boys Varsity Basketball is 3 and 3.
- Ice Hockey is 5, 2 and 3.
- Wrestling is 7 and 3.

In response to a question, Bill indicated he has been accepted to UMass Amherst, Texas A&M and Purdue University. He will be studying engineering.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

WMRC/Dean Bank Award

Mr. Dockray reported that WMRC, in conjunction with Dean Bank, recognized one of our senior Legal & Protective Services students, CJ Roy, live on the radio. Mr. O'Brien, Guidance Department Head, recommended CJ for the award and coordinated the broadcast with the radio station. Mr. O'Brien, Ms. George, Ms. MacLeod and Ms. Bastien, along with Mr. Dockray, spoke live on the radio. A recording of the broadcast will be made available for our use in our public relations material.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (continued)

2018 Admissions

Mr. Dockray invited members to review the booklets that had been distributed and indicated they had been sent to all 8th grade parents in the district as a beginning to the admissions season.

Mr. Dockray indicated that to date Tri-County has received 263 applications through the online system.

Public Relations Specialist

Mr. Dockray was sorry to report that Jess Silva, the Public Relations Specialist resigned on January 6, to take a position with a national strategic communications firm. Mr. Dockray reported a replacement has been hired. Ms. Jodie Luksha has many years of experience in public relations and will take over the PR responsibilities when she starts on January 30.

MSBA Statement of Interest Denial

Mr. Dockray reported that the MSBA did not find Tri-County's requests as urgent as others in our cohort of SOIs received. The cohort contains districts with unsafe buildings, severe overcrowding, etc.

Mr. Dockray indicated the plan is to apply for the accelerated repair program for roofs, windows and doors. In addition, discussions continue on rehabbing the construction crafts laborers area.

FY2018 Budget

Mr. Dockray indicated that a preliminary expenditure budget is almost complete. He is still waiting for the governor's budget figures and anticipates scheduling a Budget Subcommittee meeting before the regular meeting on February 15.

Discuss Cell phone Tower Proposal

Mr. Dockray asked Mr. Shanahan to report on T-Mobile's request for space on Tri-County property for a cell phone tower.

Mr. Shanahan reported he has had preliminary discussions with T-Mobile representatives. Site locations have been discussed; installation of a 120 foot tower, located next to the solar field in the rear of the building; the ground footprint is about 60 square feet. T-Mobile indicated the lease would be re-negotiated every five years with a total duration of 25 years. The income would start at \$20K per year.

Mr. Shanahan indicated that all costs involved would be the responsibility of T-Mobile; any liability issues within the area they lease will be theirs. Mr. Shanahan considers this to be a good revenue source.

In response to questions: Mr. Shanahan indicated that there will be multiple carriers; zoning will have to be approved and may require a hearing; the tower company would be responsible for all maintenance; Mr. Shanahan does not envision any issues; research will be done with regard to fair compensation.

Mr. Dockray asked for approval to produce an RFP. Mr. Roy indicated that an RFP will allow for proposals from other cellular companies.

A motion was made by Mr. Dowse and seconded by Ms. Reynolds to authorize the Superintendent to move further with the cell tower project.
Motion carried unanimously.

MIAA Football Appeal

Mr. Procaccini reported that he had attended a meeting to present Tri-County's appeal of the move from Division 8 to Division 5. As a result, notification was received that the appeal was granted and Tri-County has moved back to Division 8. Mr. Procaccini indicated that due to a final appeal process, changes may be made to that ruling possibly putting us in Division 7. A final decision is pending.

Employee Recognition Plaque

Mr. Dockray passed around a plaque provided by Mr. Carbone for members to see. This was a sample of the plaques that Keefe Tech gives to employees to commemorate varying levels of service.

In response to a question, Mr. Carbone indicated that the decision of using a plaque as opposed to other types of awards such as jewelry, was tied in to the amount of money which will be spent for these recognitions.

Mr. Hoegler suggested that perhaps a recognition plaque should also be given to School Committee members.

FY16 AUDIT RESULTS

Mr. Dan Haynes of Scanlon & Associates reviewed a brief summary of Financial Reporting in general. Tri-County's reporting this year included: single audit, student activity and end-of-year financial reporting audit.

Mr. Haynes summarized the results of the Tri-County FY16 Audit Report. Comments included: member town assessment increases are being driven by lower state aid contributions; OPEB Liability has grown from \$6.9M to \$9.0M over a three-year period and will continue to grow; District share of net pension liability doubled from 2015 to 2016; MSERS is funded by Massachusetts employee contributions (11%), Commonwealth of Massachusetts and investment returns.

In response to questions, Mr. Haynes responded:

-The \$9M OPEB liability is derived from: an estimate of teachers working to retirement age; how much pay will increase by x percent; health insurance rates increase.

-Paying off the OPEB liability will eventually be doable because our discount rate will change once money is set aside.

Mr. Haynes summarized that Tri-County has once again experienced a strong budgetary performance and results expressed in the Management Letter were excellent.

When referring to the Management Letter, both Ms. Young and Mr. Brown noted that Mr. Roy and his department has done an outstanding job financially. To have a Management Letter with as few comments as Tri-County has is quite an accomplishment. The Auditor, Mr. Roy and his department should be applauded for the work they have done.

STATEMENT OF INTEREST ACCELERATED REPAIR PROJECT

Mr. Dockray requested a motion to approve the submission of the SOI Accelerated Repair Project to the MSBA for roof, windows and doors, which is due February 17, 2017.

A motion was made by Mr. Bento and seconded by Mr. Hoegler: Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on January 18, 2017, prior to the closing date, the School Committee of Tri-County RVTSD, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated February 15, 2017 for the Tri-County RVTHS located at 147 Pond Street, Franklin MA which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future. Tri-County is filing this SOI under Priority 5, replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility. Presently the PVC roofing system installed in 1995 is out of warranty. All of the windows and doors have not been replaced since the building was constructed in 1977. Further, Tri-County RVTSD specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF WARRANTS

Mr. Roy reported that the Warrant Subcommittee had been contacted since the last School Committee meeting for the purpose of signing warrants covering routine payroll obligations, and other miscellaneous items in the amount of \$1,638,408.79.

Description	Amount	Description	Amount
Operating Warrant # 73	\$37,103.33	Operating Warrant # 79	\$1,257.00
Operating Warrant # 74	\$11,837.37	Operating Warrant #80(PYE)	\$495.00
Operating Warrant # 74A	\$128,470.79	Operating Warrant # 81	\$52,880.57
Operating Warrant # 74B	\$95,790.08	Operating Warrant # 82	\$6,146.96
Operating Warrant # 75	\$272,904.46		
Operating Warrant # 76	\$11,504.25	Payroll Warrant # 13	\$513,993.96
Operating Warrant # 76A	\$87,286.38	Payroll Warrant # 14	\$479,343.17
Operating Warrant # 77	\$1,289.17		
Operating Warrant # 78	\$224,710.57	Activity Warrant # 11	\$175.00

TOPICS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED BY THE CHAIRPERSON 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING

Mrs. Young asked for a timeframe of when a report would be forthcoming on the solar panel project along with the status of the financial data. Mr. Roy indicated that a report would be available by the end of this fiscal year.

Mr. Hoegler asked for an update regarding the father who spoke at the previous meeting regarding a situation with his daughter. Mr. Procaccini reported that he met with the father that evening. The father did not want Mr. Procaccini to pursue the issue with the instructor. Mr. Procaccini indicated that several discussions have taken place with the faculty regarding appropriate discourse within classes on the subject.

Mr. Carbone wanted all to know that Mr. Rappa is under hospice care according to his daughter, Jodi. This change came on quite suddenly.

Mr. Carbone also reported that he submitted a list to the National Association of School Committees of activity at Tri-County and the how vocational education has evolved over the years.

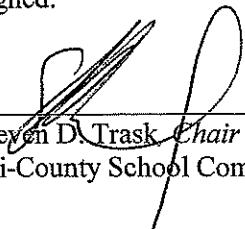
ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Hoegler and seconded by Mr. Dowse that the School Committee meeting be adjourned.

Motion carried unanimously.

The School Committee meeting adjourned at 8:11 PM.

Signed:



Steven D. Trask, Chair
Tri-County School Committee