

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

Minutes – September 21, 2016

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

Members Present:

Steven Trask, Chairman, Franklin
Donna Cabibbo, Vice Chair, Millis
Robert Guthrie, Secretary, North Attleboro
David Bento, Medfield
Douglas Brown, Seekonk
Paul Carbone, Franklin
Kathi Hamilton, Norfolk
Louis Hoegler, Walpole
Linda Reynolds, Medway
Janice Young, Walpole
Robert Wilkinson, Plainville

Members Not Present:

Adeline Bee, North Attleboro
Jonathan Dowse, Sherborn
Victor Knust Graichen, Wrentham

Others Present:

Steve Dockray, Superintendent
Michael Procaccini, Principal

SECRETARY'S REPORT

A motion was made by Ms. Young and seconded by Ms. Cabibbo that the minutes of the July 20, 2016 School Committee meeting be approved as submitted.

Discussion ensued

Motion passed with two abstentions.

INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Dockray introduced Mr. Peter Steeves, Tri-County Treasurer.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Mr. Trask extended condolences to David Bento on the passing of his father, Paul, who was a champion of vocational education. Also, Mr. Trask asked that everyone keep Victor Knust Graichen in their thoughts and prayers as he continues to recuperate.

Mr. Trask welcomed back Paul Carbone, former School Committee member, who is finishing Mr. Rappa's term representing Franklin.

Mr. Trask asked members to contact him or Mr. Dockray for any Subcommittee assignment change requests. Mr. Trask also indicated that the Policy Subcommittee needs another person.

Ms. Cabibbo requested that her home phone number be removed from the School Committee list.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Bill Galligan reported on the following:

- Freshmen have experienced one exploratory so far this year.
- Club Fair was held for freshmen.
- Co-op students started employment this week.
- Seniors have started work on the senior project product.
- Juniors are starting work on the senior project paper.
- Spanish I class being held after school with a professor from Bristol Community College.
- Spanish II class is being planned for the spring semester.
- The Showcase Spectacular will be held October 1.
- Homecoming Dance scheduled to October 14; Homecoming Football game on October 15.
- Fall Sports are in full swing.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT (continued)

In response to a comment, Mr. Procaccini explained that vocational schools may take advantage of classes being offered by local colleges for their language requirement and the students will actually receive college credit for these courses.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

School Opening

Mr. Dockray reported that school opened on September 6, 2016, with 1,026 students. Mr. Dockray expressed satisfaction with the number of ninth graders, 286, and attributed the high number to the new online application process.

2016 MCAS Results

Mr. Dockray indicated he could only give a brief summary as the results are embargoed by the DESE and will not be released until later. Mr. Dockray did indicate that Tri-County is once again a Level I school.

Advanced Placement Kickoff Rally & Legislative Breakfast

Mr. Dockray reported that the AP Kickoff Rally being organized by Mass Insight, and a separate Legislative Breakfast, have been scheduled for September 30. Senator Karen Spilka will be the keynote speaker at the Rally and will attend the Breakfast.

The Legislative Breakfast is being held to discuss the Core Renovation SOI that Tri-County filed with the MSBA and to ask for legislators' support in persuading the MSBA to accept the project. Mr. Dockray advised that all School Committee members are invited to attend.

Annual Open House and Showcase Spectacular

Mr. Dockray reported that 4,800 postcards were sent to in-district households with children between the ages of 9-14 regarding the second annual Open House, Saturday, October 1. Postcards were also given out to children attending Tri-County summer camps; the event was advertised on the community access stations; posters were placed in several businesses; and an ad will be placed on Facebook.

Mr. Dockray described the many events taking place that day including the availability of computers for the online application process; vocational lab activities; current parents and staff present for questions from prospective students and parents.

MASS/MASC Joint Conference

Mr. Dockray advised that registrations are still be accepted for the MASS/MASC Joint Conference is taking place November 2-5, 2016.

Re-Scheduling of April 19, 2017 School Committee Meeting

Mr. Dockray requested that the April 2017 meeting be moved to April 12, 2017, due to school vacation.

A motion was made by Ms. Cabibbo and seconded by Ms. Reynolds that the April 19, 2017 School Committee meeting be rescheduled to April 12, 2017.

Motion passed unanimously.

Tri-County Education Foundation

Mr. Dockray reported that one meeting has taken place however, since then, the president resigned due to the death of his brother. Mr. Dockray asked for help in identifying community members to serve on the board.

Mr. Dockray indicated that the PR Specialist has begun work on a website, and a separate checking account has been opened for the Foundation.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT (continued)

OPEB Trust

Mr. Dockray reported that they are searching for another trustee, and he will be scheduling a meeting to adopt the trust agreement.

MASC Lifetime Achievement 2016 to Mr. Knust Graichen

Mr. Dockray reported that Victor was selected to receive the MASC Life Member/Leadership award, which will be presented on Friday, November 4, at the Joint Conference. If any member is interested in attending, please advise Jeanne Terrell.

ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Guthrie reported the following sports sign-ups: Cheerleading 29, Golf 18, V-JF-FR Football 70, Girls Soccer 29, Boys Soccer 38, Volleyball 53 (with cuts); Cross Country 24 (girls and boys).

Mr. Guthrie reported that the Athletic Director indicated there are no current needs for equipment; new goal posts and soccer nets are in place; some weight room equipment has been donated and is being used by both athletes and some faculty members.

Mr. Guthrie indicated the Athletic Director, due to a rise in numbers, may be considering the addition of a Girls JV Soccer team next year.

Mr. Guthrie reminded members that Homecoming will be Saturday, October 15.

A motion was made by Ms. Young and seconded by Ms. Cabibbo to accept the Athletic Subcommittee report as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER’S REPORT FY16

Mr. Steeves reviewed the figures contained in the Treasurer’s Report dated June 2016, indicating that Tri-County continues to be in a strong financial position. In response to a question, Mr. Steeves reported that he is bonded.

A motion was made by Mr. Wilkinson and seconded by Mr. Guthrie that the School Committee accept the Treasurer’s Report for FY16.

Motion carried unanimously.

BUSINESS OFFICE REPORT

End-of-Year Financial Report FY16

Mr. Roy reviewed the figures contained in the Financial Reports for FY16, indicating the District continues to have a strong balance sheet. Mr. Roy noted the following: state transportation aid was significantly above expectations; MSBA still owes \$127K for the boiler project and the final payment should be received no later than October; any excess transportation aid received above budget will be contributed to the OPEB Trust; \$50K was allocated to shop renovation project.

A motion was made by Ms. Young and seconded by Ms. Cabibbo that the End of Year Financial Report for FY16 be accepted as presented.

Motion passed unanimously.

In response to a question, Mr. Roy indicated that the E&D Fund is \$672,515, and that \$205,000 will be contributed to the OPEB Trust.

In response to a question regarding the \$50K for a shop renovations, Mr. Roy indicated that consideration is being given to renovate the CCL shop due to its phase-out of the program and converting the shop to house the new Engineering/Advanced Manufacturing Lab.

BUSINESS OFFICE REPORT (continued)

Student Activity Audit

Mr. Trask noted that a vote is required in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, Section 47, which states that the School Committee shall vote to set the maximum balance that may be on deposit in the student activity checking account.

A motion was made by Ms. Young and seconded by Ms. Cabibbo that the maximum balance that may be on deposit in the student activity checking amount at \$25,000. Discussion ensued.

In response to a questions, Mr. Roy indicated that the amount of \$25K was chosen because it would be adequate to take care of expenditures on a weekly basis; also that the Treasurer is the person who signs the checks.

Motion carried unanimously.

Authorization of Student Activities

Mr. Trask noted that Massachusetts General Law requires that individual student activity accounts be authorized by vote of the School Committee. It is difficult if not impossible to document the vote of the School Committee for long-established accounts, therefore, DESE recommends that schools periodically re-authorize those accounts to provide the appropriate evidence that the accounts have been voted on.

A motion was made by Ms. Young and seconded by Ms. Cabibbo that the student activity accounts listed on the “List of Accounts to be Authorized” be established as individual student activity accounts. Discussion ensued.

In response to a question, Mr. Roy indicated that amounts left over in previous “class” accounts after all outstanding invoices have been satisfied are handled according to the policy as previously voted by the School Committee.

In response to a question, Mr. Roy indicated that funds left over from previous year activity accounts would be transferred to another account for a particular purpose.

Mr. Roy noted that the DESE recommends that an internal audit be done by an independent person annually, and he reviewed the comments and recommendations stated in the recent audit performed by Scanlon & Associates.

Mr. Hoegler commended Mr. Roy for his work.

Motion carried unanimously.

Reduction of the Fiscal 2017 Member Town Assessments

A motion was made by Ms. Young and seconded by Ms. Reynolds to increase the State Transportation Aid budgeted for fiscal 2017 from \$480,710 to \$550,710 and to reduce the Fiscal 2017 Member Town Assessments from \$11,243,219 to \$11,173,219.

Motion carried unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT GOALS – FY17

Professional Practice Goal – Mr. Dockray indicated that getting the Education Foundation up and running will be his professional practice goal for this year. Mr. Dockray’s goal is to have the Foundation take over responsibility for the golf fundraising event. He will need additional people to serve on the board and asked members to please submit their suggestions.

Student Learning Goal

Mr. Dockray indicated that one of the focuses this year will be the Mass Insight Education program. The program will improve the achievement of all students and improve the rigor of the academic and vocational programs. A kick-off is scheduled for September 30, 2016.

SUPERINTENDENT GOALS – FY17 (continued)

Promote Differentiated Instructional Strategies

Mr. Dockray noted that a consultant was brought in last year for a cohort of faculty members and he anticipates a second PLC this year for another cohort.

District Improvement Goal

Mr. Dockray indicated the Five-Year Strategic Plan is constantly being reviewed and will become a “rolling five-year plan” by removing completed items and adding more pertinent items.

A motion was made by Ms. Reynolds and seconded by Mr. Brown that the School Committee accept the report on the Superintendent Goals 2017 as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

REQUEST OF UNITED REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

A motion was made by Mr. Wilkinson and seconded by Ms. Hamilton that the School Committee approve the request of the United Regional Chamber of Commerce to be allowed to acquire a one-day liquor license to serve alcohol during its annual Taste of the Region event scheduled at Tri-County on October 25, 2016.

Motion carried with one abstention.

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 \$3,054,901.

Description	Amount	Description	Amount
Operating Warrant # 7	\$17,332.52	Operating Warrant # 23	\$1,121.20
Operating Warrant # 8	\$18,275.41	Operating Warrant # 24	\$2,246.57
Operating Warrant # 8A	\$65,446.33	Operating Warrant # 25	\$3,611.23
Operating Warrant # 8B	\$69,997.78	Operating Warrant # 26	\$10,149.27
Operating Warrant # 9	\$9,081.20	Operating Warrant # 26A	\$90,441.21
Operating Warrant # 10	\$390,565.97	Operating Warrant # 20	\$16,444.72
Operating Warrant # 11	\$22,425.17	Operating Warrant # 20A	\$64,879.26
Operating Warrant # 12	\$16,596.87	Operating Warrant # 20B	\$67,642.92
Operating Warrant # 13	\$6,590.56	Operating Warrant # 21	\$302,755.25
Operating Warrant # 14	\$9,066.34	Operating Warrant # 22	\$241,323.18
Operating Warrant # 14A	\$73,378.77	Payroll Warrant # 2	
Operating Warrant # 15	\$58,154.41	Payroll Warrant # 3	
Operating Warrant # 15A	\$5,219.00	Payroll Warrant # 4	
Operating Warrant # 15B	\$11,590.00	Payroll Warrant # 5	
Operating Warrant # 16	\$2,282.07		
Operating Warrant # 17	\$1,182.89	Activity Warrant # 55	
Operating Warrant # 18	\$49,894.16	Activity Warrant # 56	
Operating Warrant # 19	\$17,757.82		

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

Request by Mr. Wilkinson

Mr. Wilkinson requested that the School Committee vote to grant the title of Chairman Emeritus to Robert Rappa.

A motion was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Ms. Hamilton that the School Committee grant the title of Chairman Emeritus of the Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical School District to Mr. Robert Rappa. Discussion ensued.

It was noted that it is an honorary title given to one of our founding members. It was suggested to perhaps note the distinction on Tri-County letterhead going forward.

Motion passed unanimously.

Request by Ms. Bee - Resolution

On behalf of Ms. Bee, Mr. Trask asked members for their resolution against lifting the cap on Commonwealth charter schools. Ms. Bee provided the following resolution:

“Whereas, free public schools available to all students regardless of income, ability, need or English language proficiency are foundational to our democracy; and Whereas, all of our students deserve high-quality public schools that teach the whole child, providing enrichment and addressing social and emotional needs in addition to core academic subjects; and Whereas, local accountability for our public schools is necessary to ensure schools are responsive to the needs of their communities; and Whereas, Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical School District is losing funds to Commonwealth charter schools and public school districts across the state are losing more than \$450M this year alone--a loss of funds that is undermining the ability of districts to provide all students with the educational services to which they are entitled; and Whereas, Commonwealth charter schools are often approved over the objection of community residents and their elected officials and are not accountable to local elected officials once they are approved; and, Whereas Commonwealth charter schools often fail to serve the same proportion of special needs students, low income students and English language learners as the districts from which they receive students and often use high suspension rates to drive-out students they don't want to serve; and Whereas the Commonwealth charter schools create separate and unequal opportunities for success; and Whereas lifting the cap on charter schools would greatly worsen the problems listed above and lead to a costly and divisive two-track school system; Therefore, be it resolved that Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical School District Committee opposes lifting the cap on Commonwealth charter schools.”

A motion was made by Ms. Cabibbo and seconded by Mr. Carbone that the School Committee adopt the proposed resolution as presented.

Discussion ensued.

Motion passed with ten for and one opposed.

It was suggested that press releases be sent for both the resolution and for the Chairman Emeritus honor.

The School Committee meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:



Robert Guthrie, *Secretary*