
**MINUTES
THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING**

**Thomaston Town Hall
Meeting Room One
Monday, February 13, 2017
7:00 p.m.**

Members:

**Roxy Fainer, Chairperson
Kathleen Freimuth, Vice Chairperson
Anne Petrucci, Secretary
Alexander Lee, Treasurer
Francine Coss, Superintendent**

**Beth Campbell
David Colavecchio
Maureen McMahon
Scott Theriault
Frank Treglia**

Student Representatives:

Joshua Gallo

Michaela Palladino

1. Establishment of a Quorum and Call to Order

1.1. **Chairperson Roxy Fainer** called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1.2. Board Members in Attendance: **Chairperson Roxy Fainer, Kathleen Freimuth, Anne Petrucci, Superintendent Francine Coss, Beth Campbell, David Colavecchio, Maureen McMahon, Scott Theriault, Frank Treglia, and Student Representative Josh Gallo.**

1.3. Board Members Absent: **Alexander Lee and Student Representative Michaela Palladino**

1.4. Others in Attendance: Jonathan Kozlak, John Perrucci, Eric Martin, Aimee Turner, Laura Fitch, Steve Sauve and Rebecca Sauve.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

2.1. **Chairperson Roxy Fainer** led the pledge of allegiance.

3. Approval of Agenda

*Vote to accept/approve, Regular Meeting Agenda, February 13, 2017 as presented
Kathleen Freimuth motioned and Anne Petrucci seconded to accept/approve the Regular*

Meeting Agenda, dated February 13, 2017.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried

Yes	No	Abstain
8	0	0

4. Public Participation

The Board welcomes public participation in accordance with Thomaston Board of Education Policy 9325(a) – Bylaws of the Board Meeting Conduct. Specifically, provision for permitting any individual or group to address the Board concerning any subject that lies within its jurisdiction shall be as follows:

- Five minutes may be allotted to each speaker and a maximum of twenty minutes to each subject matter.
- No boisterous conduct shall be permitted at any Board of Education meeting. Persistence in boisterous conduct shall be grounds for summary termination, by the chair, of that person's privilege of address. If necessary, the Chairperson may clear the room so that Board members may continue the meeting.
- No oral presentation shall include charges or complaints against any employee of the Board of Education, regardless of whether or not the employee is identified in the presentation by name or by another reference that tends to identify an individual. All charges or complaints against employees shall be submitted to the Board of Education under provision of Board of Education policy.

The Thomaston Board of Education is confident you will observe the rules of common courtesy. Thank you.

Steve Sauve stated that his son was looking to attend Wamogo High School and was accepted, but put on the wait list. Mr. Sauve said his understanding is that his son was put on the wait list due to constraints from the Thomaston District. Mr. Sauve wanted to ask the Board to look into the policy and consider increasing or modifying the policy to give students a chance to attend programs in other schools.

5. Approval of Minutes:

5.1. Regular Meeting of the Board of Education Meeting Minutes dated January 9, 2017

Vote to accept/approve Regular Meeting Minutes dated January 9, 2017 as presented

Kathleen Freimuth moved and Anne Petrucci seconded to accept/approve Regular Meeting Minutes dated January 9, 2017 as presented.

Discussion: Chairperson Roxy Fainer requested to note that the minutes be reviewed to make sure that the Board members names are proper.

Vote: Motion carried

Yes	No	Abstain
8	0	0

5.2 Special Board of Education Meeting dated January 30, 2017

Vote to accept/approve Regular Meeting Minutes dated January 30, 2017 as presented

Anne Petrucci moved and Kathleen Freimuth seconded to accept/approve Special Meeting Minutes dated January 30, 2017 as presented.

Discussion: *Chairperson Roxy Fainer* reiterated to check the minutes for proper Board members names.

Vote: Motion carried

Yes	No	Abstain
5	0	3 Kathleen Freimuth Maureen McMahon Anne Petrucci

6. Recognitions:

- 6.1. Rotary Student of the Month – Devan Donofrio
- 6.2. Elementary Leadership Conference Attendees – **Postponed to March 13, 2017**
 - Kaydence Meyer (Grade 4)
 - Jake Morton (Grade 4)
 - Nicole Decker (Grade 5)
 - Justin Dorso (Grade 5)
 - Nathan Brammer (Grade 6)
 - Delaney Jose (Grade 6)

7. Student Representative’s Report

8. Chairperson’s Report

- 8.1. WAMS, Maloney, Rotella Steering Committee – Meeting Minutes dated December 15, 2016
- 8.2. Devan Donofrio Email

9. Superintendent’s Report

- 9.1. Connecticut State Board of Education Student Board Member Search
- 9.2. Connecticut State Board of Education Memorandum – Challenge to Educational Citizenship Award Program
- 9.3. Connecticut State Board of Education Memorandum – Guidance for Districts Regarding Refugee Students
 - 9.3.1. Enrollment of Students from other countries
- 9.4. Connecticut State Department of Education Memorandum – Advanced Placement (AP) Potential
- 9.5. Connecticut State Board of Education – Completion of ED003 Form and Filing of Contracts
- 9.6. Connecticut State Board of Education – Annual Administration of Statewide Summative Assessments for Spring 2017
- 9.7. Clinical Site Agreement - The Porter and Chester Institute, Inc.
- 9.8. CAPSS Executive Director Announcement
- 9.9. Thomaston Public Schools News for Staff – January 2017
- 9.10. Relocation of State Department of Education – 450 Columbus Blvd.
- 9.11. CABE’s Day on the Hill – March 8, 2017

9.12. Effective School Solutions – February 2017

- 9.12.1. Insights
- 9.12.2. Solutions

9.13. EdAdvance – 2015-2016 District Data Report

9.14. Superintendents' Statement on Burden of Proof – January 2017

9.15. Superintendents' Mid-Year Evaluation

9.16. Cancellation of Services Letter – Stanley Security

9.17. Emergency Operations Plan Training For School Districts & Schools K-12

9.18. STEM Grant Criteria

9.19. Residency Determination Letters

9.20. FMLA Notice of Eligibility

9.21. Administrator Reports

9.22. Enrollment Report

9.23. Job Description

- 9.23.1. Custodian III

Vote to accept/approve Job Description as presented

Kathleen Freimuth moved and Anne Petrucci seconded to accept/approve Job Description as presented.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried

Yes	No	Abstain
8	0	0

9.24. Field Trips

- 9.24.1. Monica Reed, Class of 2018, Grade 11, New England Aquarium & Quincy Market, Boston MA
- 9.24.2. Heidi Laus, Travel Club, Milan/Venice, Florence and Rome, Italy - Summer of 2018

Vote to accept/approve Out-of-State/Country Field Trips as presented

Anne Petrucci moved and Kathleen Freimuth seconded to accept/approve Out-of-State/Country Field Trips as presented.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried

Yes	No	Abstain
8	0	0

9.25. Personnel

- 9.25.1. Robert Newsome Jr., Resignation, Custodian III, Black Rock School
- 9.25.2. Kristen Callahan, New Hire, Lunch Monitor, Black Rock School

Vote to accept/approve New Hires/Retirement Positions as presented

Kathleen Freimuth moved and Anne Petrucci seconded to accept/approve New Hires/Retirement Positions as presented.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried

Yes	No	Abstain
8	0	0

9.25.3. Jennifer McDonald, Candidate for Hire, Substitute Nurse, Thomaston Public Schools

9.25.4. Lesley Guerra, Candidate for Hire, Substitute Nurse, Thomaston Public Schools

Vote to accept/approve Candidates for Hire as presented

Kathleen Freimuth moved and Anne Petrucci seconded to accept/approve Candidates for Hire as presented.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried

Yes	No	Abstain
8	0	0

10. Committee Reports

10.1. Budget/Audit Committee

10.1.1. January Business Report

- 2015-2016 Audit Report/Town of Thomaston Comprehensive Annual Financial Report
- Governor Malloy Budget Proposal
- 2017-2018 Operating and Capital Budgets

Vote to accept/approve 2017-2018 Operating and Capital Budgets

Anne Petrucci moved and Kathleen Freimuth seconded to accept/approve the 2017-2018 Operating and Capital Budgets as discussed at 2.98%.

Discussion:

David Colavecchio asked why the Board was even voting on the budget at this time.

Chairperson Roxy Fainer replied that the Board needs to have a budget in place to go forward.

Superintendent Coss explained that the Board at the last meeting voted to increase the budget by ninety thousand (\$90,000) which brought the budget to 4.05%. The budgets that were presented to the Board on February 13, 2017 was a 4.05% budget and a 2.86% budget.

David Colavecchio stated that other Boards around the area are struggling to get under 3.0% so it is positive that the Board is in that ballpark now.

Superintendent Coss reminded the Board that the Board only increased this years budget by ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

David Colavecchio wanted clarification that the Social Studies teacher position was added back into the budget.

Superintendent Coss replied that the Social Studies position remains in the budget, but needs to be shared with Special Education in order for the Board to have a 2.86% budget.

Scott Theriault asked about the unsettled contract.

Superintendent Coss stated that the Board of Finance said when the contract is settled it will be retroactive. The Town said they would provide the funds. The Board of Finance preferred that the Board of

Education not put in a generic number into the budget, which could end up being a promise for something that is not even going to match what would be the outcome.

Scott Theriault asked what is the benefit to the union by dragging it out.

Superintendent Coss replied that right now, there is no benefit and negotiations are now moving along.

Chairperson Roxy Fainer stated that the union has a very large negotiation committee and trying to accommodate everyone schedule is problematic.

Superintendent Coss explained that the gentleman who is representing the union at this time is not the permanent replacement so he is not as available as he would be if this was his permanent position.

Chairperson Roxy Fainer asked if any of the Administrators wanted to say anything about the budgets and the cuts that were made to the budgets.

Jonathan Kozlak, Black Rock School Principal stated that the school had some scheduled equipment replacements that may not be functioning properly, but are functioning to a degree, so they pushed it off until next year. However, creating a need in future cycles to get them replaced.

John Perrucci, Thomaston High School Principal explained that right now the cuts that have been made are not impacting the students. Any future cuts would have to come from the supplies and teachers budget lines.

Superintendent Coss stated that some of the things being postponed, whether it is equipment or the two teaching positions will have to happen in 2018-2019 school year or the district won't be able to have a successful portfolio program.

Beth Campbell asked if the numbers for the track and field equipment had been received yet.

John Perrucci replied that he had just received the information late in the day and that he will be reviewing the information the following day.

Superintendent Coss stated that the request that the Board of Finance made was to bring the figures to the Capital Committee. **Superintendent Coss** asked if the equipment was something that would be brought to the Capital Committee.

John Perrucci stated that the hurdles may be included in the bid and the hurdles are a big chunk of change.

Eric Martin, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment explained that he has cut all the fat and wishes out of the Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment budget. The budget is really down to the core needs.

Aimee Turner stated that her department could not go down any further.

Superintendent Coss stated that John Perrucci and Aimee Turner have been very flexible. They are both very experienced and are able to find ways to cut their budgets.

Aimee Turner announced that the district did get the Preschool Grant.

Superintendent Coss reminded the Board that the Preschool Grant was already included the budget.

Chairperson Roxy Fainer said based on the comments, what she understands is that the Budget is as lean as it can go without cutting people or instructional needs.

Superintendent Coss said over all the Board and Administrators have done an excellent job with the budget.

John Perrucci stated without completely reviewing the track and field bid, it looks like about fifty-seven thousand (\$57,000) for the field equipment. However, keep in mind that this is without the bidding process and you may get an addition ten (10) or fifteen (15) percent off.

Frank Treglia asked if the bid included the hurdles.

John Perrucci said that he is still reviewing the bid.

Superintendent Coss asked John Perrucci to fill out the proper form for a Capital request and **Superintendent Coss** will submit it right away to the Capital Committee.

John Perrucci said that the equipment would last for years to come and the hurdles are included in the bid for about twenty thousand (\$20,000).

Scott Theriault stated that the equipment is certainly something that should go to Capital.

Frank Treglia said that he figures whoever is making the track may supply the hurdles that are made for the track.

Chairperson Roxy Fainer said that she understands that there is a lot of uncertainty from the Town and the State, but she feels it is important that the Board make a decision on the budget with the 2.86% increase.

David Colavecchio asked if the Board is going to make it 2.98%

Superintendent Coss said we have to add back in the pensions.

Scott Theriault asked what if the Board of Finance kicks it back. What then does the Board of Education do?

Superintendent Coss said then the Board would have to trim things that are related to instruction.

Superintendent Coss asked if 2.98% is a problematic number for any of the Board members.

David Colavecchio stated again that other school boards are trying to get 3% or less and the Board's budget is there now.

Superintendent Coss highlighted that the budget includes an expanded preschool.

Scott Theriault stated that he hopes changes are going to be realized and students will come back to Thomaston School District.

Vote: Motion carried

Yes	No	Abstain
8	0	0

10.1.2. January Finance Report

- 2016/2018 Grant Report
- January 2017 Expenditures \$1,438,607.70
- January 2017 Transfers \$0.00

Vote to accept/approve Business and Finance Report and Expenditures as Presented

Anne Petrucci moved and Kathleen Freimuth seconded to accept/approve **Business and Finance Report and Expenditures as presented**

Discussion: Chairperson **Roxy Fainer** clarified that the Board motion on the table is to accept/approve the January Business and Finance Report and Expenditures as presented

Vote: Motion carried

Yes	No	Abstain
8	0	0

11. Executive Session for the purpose of the Mid-Year Evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools

11.1. Policy 2400 – Administration – Evaluation of the Superintendent

Kathleen Freimuth moved and Anne Petrucci seconded to move into Executive Session and invite the Superintendent of Schools to attend at 7:45 p.m.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried

Yes	No	Abstain
8	0	0

12. Exit Executive Session/Enter into Public Session

The Board exited Executive Session and Entered into Public Session at 8:10 p.m.

13. Adjournment

Anne Petrucci moved and Kathleen Freimuth seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried

Yes	No	Abstain
8	0	0

The meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m