



MINUTES
THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
Monday, May 10, 2021
7:00 p.m.

Public May Attend In-Person ([see requirements](#)) or Virtually
This meeting can be viewed live on [Board of Education YouTube Channel](#)

Mission Statement:

In a partnership of family, school and community, our mission is to **educate**, **challenge** and **inspire** each individual to excel and become a contributing member of society.

Board of Education Goals:

- 1) Spotlight on one staff member each Regular meeting (September - June)
 - 2) Conduct meetings that are efficient using hybrid meeting technology
 - 3) Provide relevant research and data prior to the formal presentation of that information to the Board.
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Members:

Beth Campbell, Chairperson
David Colavecchio, Vice Chairperson
Heather Patchell, Secretary
Roxy Fainer, Treasurer
Francine Coss, Superintendent

Nicole Rinaldi
Jennifer Nolan
Matthew VanOrmer
Sarah Ethier
Steven Carr

Student Representatives 2020-2021

Isabella Guerrero
McKenna O'Sullivan
Cesar Velez

1. Establishment of a Quorum and Call to Order (*Bylaws of the Board 9325.1 – Quorum*)

- 1.1. **Chairperson Beth Campbell** called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.
 - 1.2. Board Members In Attendance In-person: **Chairperson Beth Campbell, Vice Chairperson David Colavecchio, Secretary Heather Patchell, Treasurer Roxy Fainer, Steven Carr, Matthew VanOrmer, Sarah Ethier, Superintendent Francine Coss**
 - 1.3. Board Member In Attendance Virtually: **Heather Patchell and Nicole Rinaldi**
During the approval of the May 10th minutes at the June 3rd Special Meeting of the Board of Education, the minutes were amended to reflect that both Heather Patchell and Nicole Rinaldi attended virtually.
 - 1.4. Board Member Absent: **Jennifer Nolan**
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1.5. Student Representative In Attendance In-person: **Isabella Guerrero, McKenna O’Sullivan**

1.6. Student Representative In Attendance Virtually: **Cesar Velez**

1.7. Others in Attendance In-Person: Kristin Mossiman, Michael O’Sullivan

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Agenda ▲ (Bylaws of the Board 9325.2 – Order of Business and Policy 1205 Community Relations – Participation by the Public – Agenda Format/Preparation and Dissemination)

Roxy Fainer motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to accept/approve the agenda of the Board of Education dated May 10, 2021 as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Motion Carries: 8-0-0

4. Public Participation ▲▲▲ (Bylaws of the Board 9325 – Meeting Conduct) - No Public Comments Submitted

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

- After Connecticut Executive Order 7, the Thomaston Board of Education meetings are held virtually. Public participation for virtual meetings is permitted through written comment. Those who wish to make public comments during a virtual meeting of the Thomaston Board of Education shall:
 - Submit public comments at least one (1) hour before the scheduled start of the virtual meeting
 - Submit public comments via the Thomaston Board of Education Public Comment Google Form at <https://forms.gle/WtQ7LkbUdpWrsCwJ6>.

NOTE: Written public comments that meet the criteria above shall be read aloud by a Board member during the Board of Education meeting.

5. Approval of Minutes ▲ (Bylaws of the Board 9326 – Minutes)

5.1. Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes dated April 19, 2021

Roxy Fainer motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to accept/approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of the Board of Education dated April 19, 2021 as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Motion Carries: 8-0-0

6. Recognitions ▲ (Policy 1170 – Community Relations/Recognitions of Students, Citizens, Staff Members, and Members of the Board of Education and Bylaws of the Board 9420 – Recognition of Accomplishments by Citizens, Students, Staff Members or Member of the Board)

6.1. April Rotary Student of the Month - McKenna O’Sullivan

6.2. April Students of the Month - Thomaston Public Schools

6.2.1. Grade K - Angelina O’Brien

6.2.2. Grade 1 - Owen Wood

6.2.3. Grade 2 - Skyla Levy

6.2.4. Grade 3 - Aiden Wood

6.2.5. Grade 4 - Tess Harkness

6.2.6. Grade 5 - Collin Moser

6.2.7. Grade 6 - Quin Merritt

6.2.8. Grade 7 - Kyle Cichowicz

6.2.9. Grade 8 - Emma Desrosiers

6.2.10. Grade 9 - Olivia Blasko

6.2.11. Grade 10 - Daniel Guerrero

6.2.12. Grade 11 - Kristen Foell

6.2.13. Grade 12 - McKenna O'Sullivan

6.3. Litchfield County Superintendents Association Recognition Award - 2021

6.3.1. Rachel Foell - Grade 12

6.3.2. Patrick Riley - Grade 12

6.3.3. Megan Campbell - Grade 8

6.3.4. Arianna Rinaldi - Grade 6

6.4. Connecticut Association of Boards of Education Student (CABE) 25th Annual Student Leadership Awards

6.4.1. Anna Colavecchio - Grade 12

6.4.2. Nathan Scarola - Grade 12

6.4.3. Brooke Beaudoin - Grade 8

6.4.4. Andrew Soria - Grade 8

7. Presentations ▲▲▲ (Bylaws of the Board 9410 – Public Announcement of Accomplishments)

7.1. Board of Education Update - Effective School Solutions and Thomaston Public School District Collaboration - Cheryl Planten, Executive Clinical Director, Effective School Solutions

7.2. Nature Center, Thomaston High School - Ms. Jessica Bedosky, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Student Assessment

7.3. Support and Maintenance of Thomaston High School Nature Center - John Perrucci - Principal, Thomaston High School

8. Student Representatives Report ▲▲▲ (Bylaws of the Board 9160 – Student Representation on the Board of Education)

9. Chairperson's Report ▲▲▲ (Bylaws of the Board 9121 – Office of the Chairperson)

9.1. Third Quarter Honor Roll - Thomaston High School

9.2. Discussion on Changing the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education on June 14, 2021 to a Special Meeting on June 3, 2021

9.3. Student Representation on the Board of Education - Policy 9160

9.3.1. Letter of Recommendation - Delaney Jose, Junior - Student Representative 2021-2022

9.3.2. Letter of Recommendation - Cesar Velez, Senior - Student Representative 2021-2022

Roxy Fainer motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to accept/approve the recommendation of Delaney Jose and Cesar Velez as the Student Representatives for the 2021-2022 school year.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Motion Carries: 8-0-0

9.4. 2022 - 2023 District Calendar - Thomaston Public Schools

Roxy Fainer motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to accept/approve the 2022 -2023 District Calendar as presented.

Discussion Link: [Discussion Link](#)

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Motion Carries: 8-0-0

10. Superintendent's Report ▲▲▲ (Policy 2131 – Administration – Superintendent of Schools)

10.1. Correspondence

10.1.1. Superintendent

10.1.1.1. Letters of Quarantine and Isolation from Superintendent Francine Coss to Parents for COVID-related childcare work absences

10.1.1.2. Effective School Solutions - MINDBEAT - April 14, 2021

10.1.1.3. Effective School Solutions - MINDBEAT - April 28, 2021

10.1.1.4. Letter from State Representative John Piscopo and Senator Henri Martin to Governor Ned Lamont

regarding student-vaccination support concerns raised by Superintendent Francine Coss

- 10.1.1.5. Letter of Gratitude from Superintendent Francine Coss to State Representative John Piscopo and Senator Henri Martin for vaccine advocacy
- 10.1.1.6. Effective School Solutions - MINDBEAT - April 21, 2021
- 10.1.1.7. Letter to Superintendent Francine Coss from anonymous
- 10.1.1.8. Letter to Superintendent Coss from the Seth-Thomas-Bradstreet House Society
- 10.1.1.9. Invitation to Superintendent Coss from EdAdvance - Commencement Exercises
- 10.1.1.10. Thank you letter to Susan Abbott, Spanish Teacher, Thomaston High School for her presentation at the April 19th Board of Education meeting regarding the 2021 Peru trip
- 10.1.1.11. Thank you letter to Gianni Perugini, Assistant Principal, Thomaston High School, for his presentation at the April 19th Board of Education meeting regarding Reducing Disproportionality in Suspensions and Expulsions
- 10.1.2. Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE)
 - 10.1.2.1. Letter from Robert Rader, Executive Director, CABE - 25th Annual CABE Student Leadership Awards program
 - 10.1.2.2. Liaison Newsletter - May 2021
- 10.1.3. Connecticut Association of Public Schools Superintendents (CAPSS) - None
- 10.1.4. United States Department of Education (USDE)
 - 10.1.4.1. Review of Title IX Regulations to fulfill President Biden's Executive Order 14021
- 10.1.5. Department of Public Health (DPH) - None
- 10.1.6. Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE)
 - 10.1.6.1. Completion of Teacher Negotiations Act Submission
 - 10.1.6.2. Deveraux Student Strengths Assessment System Information Session
 - 10.1.6.3. 2020-2021 Out-of-Town Magnet School Transportation Grant Application
 - 10.1.6.4. Connecticut State Board of Education Student Application 2021-2022
 - 10.1.6.5. Connecticut Accountability Waiver Request Approved
 - 10.1.6.6. Superintendent Memo - Evidence-Based Practice Guide
 - 10.1.6.7. Superintendent Memo - TeachRock Partnership - Invitation to Apply
 - 10.1.6.8. 2022 Connecticut Teacher of the Year Program
 - 10.1.6.9. 2022 Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year Award
- 10.2. Reports, Contracts and General Information
 - 10.2.1. Reports
 - 10.2.1.1. Administrator Reports - May 2021
 - 10.2.1.2. Enrollment - May 1, 2021
 - 10.2.1.2.1. Distance Learning Enrollment - May 1, 2021
 - 10.2.1.2.2. Enhanced Enrollment Report - May 10, 2021
 - 10.2.1.3. Distance Learning Report - Superintendent Francine Coss
 - 10.2.1.3.1. Instruction Proposal - Superintendent Coss

Vote to direct the Superintendent of Schools to implement an instruction program that offers in-person instruction without voluntary ("opt-out") remote instruction beginning in the 2021-2022 school year and continuing into the future—unless required by the State of Connecticut or if deemed necessary by the Thomaston Board of Education—while continuing to develop and offer remote instruction opportunities for all students when in-person instruction is not available.

David Colavecchio motioned and Steven Carr seconded to adopt the resolutions in regards to "opt-out" remote instruction as presented by the superintendent.

Discussion: [Discussion Link](#)

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Motion Carries: 8-0-0

10.2.2. Contracts

10.2.2.1. Board Certified Behavioral Analyst - Thomaston Public Schools - July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2024

10.2.2.2. Playground Medic Service Agreement - Black Rock School

10.2.2.3. Memorandum of Agreement - AFSCME Union - Custodial Vacation Time

10.2.2.4. Memorandum of Agreement - AFSCME Union - The Observation of New Years' Day 2023

10.2.2.5. Memorandum of Agreement - Thomaston Education Association - Experiential Learning Program Coordinator

10.2.3. Grants - None

10.2.4. General Information

10.2.4.1. Fund-Raisers

10.2.4.1.1. Thomaston Center School - Learning Enrichment Activities Program - Sale of animal treats to benefit animal shelters

10.2.4.1.2. Thomaston Middle School - Student Council - Thomaston Middle School Dance

10.2.4.1.3. Thomaston High School - Interact Club - Penny Wars for St. Jude's Hospital

10.2.5. Personnel (*Policy 4112/4212 - Personnel - Certified/Non-Certified Appointment and Conditions of Employment*)

10.2.5.1. New Hires

10.2.5.1.1. Liam Krasnowski - Custodian- Regular Part-Time (temporary position), Thomaston High School(subject to change as facility needs change), Effective April 16, 2021

10.2.5.1.2. Deborah Blackwell - Kitchen Worker - Part-Time, Thomaston High School, Effective April 26, 2021

10.2.5.2. Transfers/New Assignment

10.2.5.2.1. Michael Duggan, from Custodian, Class III, 2nd shift temporary/per diem, Thomaston Center School to Custodian, Class III, Black Rock School 2nd shift temporary/per diem - Effective April 19, 2021

10.2.5.2.2. Barbara Lee, from Remote Paraprofessional to In-Person Paraprofessional - Effective April 19, 2021

10.2.5.2.3. Michelle Pope, from Remote Teacher, Thomaston High School to In-Person teacher, Thomaston High School - Effective April 19, 2021

10.2.5.2.4. Aslee LaJoie, from In-Person Building Substitute Grades 4-6, Thomaston Center School - Library Media Center to In-Person Building Substitute, Black Rock School, Grade 3 - Effective April 19, 2021

10.2.5.2.5. Susan Santovasi, from Remote Teacher, Thomaston High School to In-Person Teacher, Thomaston High School, Effective April 19, 2021

10.2.5.2.6. Pamela Nascimento, from In-Person English Language Arts Coach and Remote English Language Arts Coach to In-person English Language Arts coach - Effective April 19, 2021

10.2.5.2.7. Jessica LeClerc, from Grade 6 Long-Term Substitute Teacher - Thomaston Center School to Teacher - Thomaston Center School , Effective May 1, 2021

10.2.5.3. Resignations - None

10.2.5.4. Retirement

10.2.5.4.1. Steven Turner, Custodian, Thomaston Center School - Effective August 1, 2021

10.2.5.5. Renewals - None

10.2.5.6. Stipends - 2020 - 2021

Roxy Fainer motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to acknowledge the Superintendent's notification of Personnel, specifically, New Hires/Transfers/Retirements/ Resignations/Renewals/Stipends per Policy 4112/4212 Personnel – Certified/Non-Certified Appointment and Conditions of Employment as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Motion Carries: 8-0-0

- 10.2.5.7. Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) (Policy 4152.6/4252.6 – Personnel-- Certified/Non-Certified Personal Leaves Family and Medical Leave Act
 - 10.2.5.7.1. Employee E
 - 10.2.5.7.2. Employee G
- 10.2.5.8. Interns and Student Teachers (Policy 1212 – Community Relations – School Volunteers)- None
- 10.2.5.9. Field Trips (out of state) (Policy 6153 - Instruction Field Trips - Secondary Schools) - None
- 10.2.5.10. Policy 3260 Business/Non-Instructional Operations Sales & Disposal of Books, Equipment & Supplies - None

11. Committee Reports ▲ (Bylaws of the Board 9132 – Standing Committees and Bylaws of the Board 9133 - Special Committees/Advisory Committees)

11.1. Business Manager Report

11.1.1. April Business Report

- 11.1.1.1. 2020-2021 Budget Table Without Encumbrances
- 11.1.1.2. 2020-2021 Budget Table With Encumbrances
- 11.1.1.3. 2020-2022 Grant Report
- 11.1.1.4. 2020-2021 Transfers
- 11.1.1.5. 2020-2021 Projection
- 11.1.1.6. Expenditures
 - 11.1.1.6.1. April - 2020-2021Fiscal Year : \$1,516,774.46

Roxy Fainer motioned and David Colavecchio seconded to accept/approve the 2021-2022 Healthy Food Certification resolutions as presented below:

Resolution 1: 2021-22 Healthy Food Certification Statement - Healthy Food Option: Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the board of education or governing authority certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or by non-school organizations and groups.

Resolution 2: Food Exemptions: The board of education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held.

Resolution 3: Beverage Exemptions: The board of education will allow the sale to students of beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the beverages are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting or extracurricular activity. The “school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held, and must be the same place as the beverage sales.

Discussion: None
Opposed: None
Abstentions: None
Motion Carries: 8-0-0

Roxy Fainer motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to direct the Superintendent per Policy 3171.1 to use funds in the non-lapsing account to make the capital purchases of Fire Panel and Tractor (not to exceed \$48,000) after the Town of Thomaston Board of Finance deposits the remaining 2019-2020 full non-lapsing funds into that account and have the Fire Panel and Tractor removed from the 2021-2022 capital request after purchase.

Discussion: None
Opposed: None
Abstentions: None
Motion Carries: 8-0-0

Roxy Fainer motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to accept / approve the Business and Finance Report and Expenditures per Policy 3432/3433 Business/Non-Instructional Operations - Budget & Expense Report/Annual Financial Statement as presented.

Discussion: None
Opposed: None
Abstentions: None
Motion Carries: 8-0-0

11.2. Policy Committee (*Policy 2231 – Administration/Policy and Regulation Systems*)

11.2.1. Presentations

11.2.1.1. Jessica Bedosky, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Student Assessment and Nicole Lefebvre, Director of Food Services - Wellness and Nutrition Education - Thomaston Public Schools

11.2.1.1.1. Policy 3542.31 - Participation in the National School Lunch Program

11.2.1.1.1.1. Current Policy - Thomaston Public Schools

11.2.1.1.1.2. Marked Up Copy

11.2.1.1.1.3. Clean Copy

11.2.1.1.2. Policy 3542.34 - Nutrition Program

11.2.1.1.2.1. Current Policy - Thomaston Public Schools

11.2.1.1.2.2. Marked Up Copy

11.2.1.1.2.3. Clean Copy

11.2.1.1.3. Policy 6142.101 - Student Wellness Policy

11.2.1.1.3.1. Current Policy - Thomaston Public School

11.2.1.1.3.2. Marked Up Policy

11.2.1.1.3.3. Clean Copy

Heather Patchell motioned and David Colavecchio seconded to fast track policies 3542.31, 3542.34, and 6142.101. These policies will be action items for the June meeting so they will be in place for the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year.

Discussion: None
Oppose: None
Abstentions: None
Motion Carried: 8-0-0

11.2.2. Discussion Items

11.2.2.1. Request Removal of Policy 6172.21

11.2.2.1.1. Expired Federal Law - No Child Left Behind

11.2.2.1.2. No Alternative Policy Recommended by the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education

Heather Patchell motioned and Steven Carr seconded to remove Policy 6172.21.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Motion Carries: 8-0-0

11.2.3. First Read Items

11.2.3.1. Policy 5132 - Students - Dress and Grooming

11.2.3.1.1. Current Policy

11.2.3.1.2. Proposed Changes (post-pandemic)

11.2.4. Second Read Items

1.1.1.1. Policy 6154 - Homework - Thomaston Public Schools

1.1.1.1.1. Current Policy

1.1.1.1.2. Proposed Changes

11.2.5. Action Item - None

12. Enter Executive Session for the purpose of Superintendent Francine Coss' presentation of "year in review" self-assessment to the Board of Education regarding his/her performance (*Bylaws of the Board 9322 - Public and Executive Sessions*)

1.1. Policy 2400 Administration - Evaluation of the Superintendent

1.1.1. Appendix B - Superintendent's Leadership Performance Areas and Specific Areas of Responsibility

1.1.2. Form 2 - Superintendent's Performance Evaluation Worksheets

1.1.3. Form #1 - Thomaston Public Schools Superintendent Evaluation

1.1.4. Form #2 - Thomaston Public Schools Superintendent Competency Standards

Roxy Fainer motioned and Steven Carr seconded to enter into Executive Session at 8:39pm. for the purpose of Superintendent Francine Coss' presentation of "year in review" self-assessment to the Board of Education regarding his/her performance.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Motion Carries: 8-0-0

13. Exit Executive Session/Enter into Regular Session - Exit Executive Session at 9:35pm.

Roxy Fainer motioned and David Colavecchio seconded to extend Superintendent Francine Coss' contract for one year through 2023-2024 with terms and goals to be determined at a future meeting.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Motion Carries: 8-0-0

14. Adjournment

David Colavecchio motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Beth Campbell adjourned the meeting at 9:37pm.