



## MINUTES

### THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

Monday, February 12, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. Thomaston High School Auditorium Entrance - Door #2

*This meeting can be attended in person by the public ([see requirements](#)) or viewed live/recorded on the [Board of Education YouTube Channel](#).  
([Bylaws of the Board 9322 - Public and Executive Sessions](#) and [Bylaws of the Board 9326.1 - Taping/Recording Board Meetings](#))*

#### 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.

#### 2023-2024 Board of Education Goals:

1. The Board will evaluate the Superintendent based on the effectiveness of her leadership in implementation and achievement of the district goals.
2. The Board will participate in biannual professional development provided by CAFE to improve the collaborative leadership team with the Superintendent to focus on priorities around high achievement for all students in the district.

#### Members:

Roxy Fainer, Chairperson  
Tanya Galpin, Secretary  
Sarah Ethier  
Frank Treglia

Francine Coss, Superintendent  
Beth Campbell  
Megan Campbell, Student Representative  
Landen Galpin, Student Representative

Matthew VanOrmer, Vice Chairperson  
Steven Carr, Treasurer  
Anthony Kepler  
Nathan Vieira

#### 1. Establishment of a Quorum and Call to Order

*(Bylaws of the Board 9325.1 - Quorum)*

- 1.1. **Chairperson Roxy Fainer** called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- 1.2. Board Members in Attendance: **Chairperson Roxy Fainer, Vice Chairperson Matthew VanOrmer, Secretary Tanya Galpin, Treasurer Steven Carr, Sarah Ethier, Frank Treglia, Beth Campbell, Anthony Kepler, Nathan Vieira**
- 1.3. Student Representatives in Attendance: **Megan Campbell, Landen Galpin**
- 1.4. Administrators in Attendance: Kristin Bernier, Aaron Bunel, Jennifer Irazabal, Cristina Kingsbury, Jonathan Kozlak, Andrea Peters
- 1.5. Others in Attendance: Robert Stack, Connor Stack, Kate, Nolan Stack, Easton Ronalter, Cristina Glick, Beth Schaffer, Stephanie Seitlinger, Olivia Blasko, Michelina Stanley,

#### 2. Pledge of Allegiance

#### 3. Approval of Agenda ▲

*(Bylaws of the Board 9325.2 - Order of Business/Policy 1205 Community Relations - Participation by the Public - Agenda Format/Preparation and Dissemination)*

**Steven Carr motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to accept/approve the agenda of the Board of Education Meeting dated February 12, 2024 as presented.**

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 9-0-0

#### 4. Public Participation ▲▲▲ NONE

*(Bylaws of the Board 9325 - Meeting Conduct)*

*The Board welcomes public participation in accordance with the rules of common courtesy and the Bylaws of the Board 9325 - Meeting Conduct:*

- Five minutes may be allotted to each speaker and a maximum of twenty minutes to each subject matter.
- No boisterous conduct shall be permitted; persistence in boisterous conduct shall be grounds for termination of that person's privilege to address the Board. The Chairperson may clear the room so that Board members may continue the meeting.
- No oral presentation shall include charges/complaints against any employee of the Board of Education, regardless of whether or not the employee is identified by name.

#### 5. Approval of Minutes ▲

*(Bylaws of the Board 9326 - Minutes)*

- 5.1. [Thomaston Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes - January 8, 2024](#)

**Steven Carr motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to accept/approve the Thomaston Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes dated January 8, 2024 as presented.**

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Discussion: None  
Opposed: None  
Abstain: None  
Motion Carried: 9-0-0

5.2. [Thomaston Board of Education Budget Workshop Minutes dated January 22, 2024](#)

**Steven Carr motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to accept/approve the Thomaston Board of Education Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes dated January 22, 2024 as presented.**

Discussion: None  
Opposed: None  
Abstain: None  
Motion Carried: 9-0-0

## 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. February 2023 Rotary Student of the Month - Aubrey Jackson

6.2. Students of the Month - January 2023

Grade 12: Ava Harkness

Grade 7: Emily Mazzarella

Grade 2: Charlie Melisky

Grade 11: Emily Morton

Grade 6: Kaylee Boulanger

Grade 1: Coralyn Novakowski

Grade 10: Samantha Armstrong

Grade 5: Jovi Green

Kindergarten: Mack Fayer

Grade 9: Samantha Lee

Grade 4: Lilly Shea

Preschool: Ellie Brandt

Grade 8: Michael Crehan

Grade 3: Ezra Dobos

6.3. [Nicole Decker, Grade 12, 1,000 Point Scorer, Thomaston Girls Basketball](#)

6.4. Thomaston Fire Prevention Poster Winners

Scarlett Clark - Grade 4

Ivan Chen - Grade 5

6.5. Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) Celebration of the Arts Award Recipients

Morgan Neelands - Grade 3

Jacob Rosa - Grade 3

Leila Manners - Grade 6

Riley Crehan - Grade 6

6.6. [Buffalo Wild Wings Basketball Player of the Week - Vince Russman - Grade 11](#)

6.7. [February 2024 Staff Spotlight - Bob Stack, Paraprofessional, Thomaston High School](#)

## 7. Presentations ▲▲▲

*(Bylaws of the Board 9410 – Public Announcement of Accomplishments)*

7.1. District 5-/10-Year Plan Timeline ([Inventory Sheet](#)) - District Lead Custodian Spencer Luthy and Custodian Patrick Hyres

7.2. [Connecticut Legislation Shifts School Climate Focus in Schools](#) - Aaron Bunel, School Climate Coordinator

7.3. [Play-Based Learning](#) - Jennifer Irazabal, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

7.4. [College and Career Accelerator Program Update](#) - Jennifer Irazabal, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

## 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. [Progress Report on 2023-2024 Goals for the Thomaston Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools](#)

9.2. [EdAdvance Board of Directors Update](#)

9.3. Preschool Lottery - Andrea Peters - Director of Pupil Services

9.3.1. [Preschool \(3 and 4\) Program Lottery Rules and Procedures](#)

9.3.2. [Policy 5111 - Admissions/Placement/Withdrawal](#)

9.3.3. [Preschool Lottery Drawing Link](#)

**PRESCHOOL 3 GRANTED ADMISSIONS** - the following numbers were randomly drawn from a bowl by Mr. Jonathan Kozlak

10, 26, 13, 16, 24, 7, 6, 22, 1, 14, 21, 12, 19, 9, 15, 5, 17, 25, 23

**PRESCHOOL 3 WAITLIST** - the following numbers were randomly drawn from a bowl by Mr. Jonathan Kozlak

2, 18, 8, 11, 20, 4, 3, 27

**PRESCHOOL 4 GRANTED ADMISSIONS** - the following numbers were randomly drawn from a bowl by Mr. Jonathan Kozlak

I9, F6, E5, G7, D4

**PRESCHOOL 4 WAITLIST** - the following numbers were randomly drawn from a bowl by Mr. Jonathan Kozlak

C3, J10, A1, K11, H8, B2

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9.4. [Two-Year Board of Education Meeting Calendar - 2026 and 2027](#)

**Nathan Vieira motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded** to accept/approve the Two-Year Board of Education Meeting Calendar 2026 and 2027 as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 8-0-0 (**Frank Treglia** was not present at the time of the voting)

**10. Superintendent's Report** ▲▲▲

*(Policy 2131 – Administration – Superintendent of Schools)*

10.1. Correspondence

10.1.1. Superintendent

10.1.1.1. [Effective School Solutions - Insights & Solutions](#)

10.1.1.2. [Effective School Solutions - MINDBEAT - Benefits of a Daily Routine](#)

10.1.1.3. [Effective School Solutions - MINDBEAT - School Refusal and Chronic Absenteeism](#)

10.1.1.4. [Effective School Solutions - MINDBEAT - You're Invited! Valentine's Day Webinar](#)

10.1.1.5. [Effective School Solutions - MINDBEAT - New Podcast!](#)

10.1.1.6. [Effective School Solutions - Insights & Solutions](#)

10.1.1.7. [Effective School Solutions - Understanding Eating Disorders](#)

10.1.1.8. [Thank You to Jennifer Irazabal for January 8, 2024 Board of Education Meeting Presentation](#)

10.1.1.9. [Thank You to Susan Lubomski/Daniel Cocchiola for January 8, 2024 Board of Education Meeting Presentation](#)

10.1.1.10. [Thank You to Kylie Decker for January 8, 2024 Board of Education Meeting Presentation](#)

10.1.1.11. [Thank You to Marissa VanOrmer for January 8, 2024 Board of Education Meeting Presentation](#)

10.1.1.12. [Response to Nicole Rinaldi for Public Comment at January 8, 2024 Board of Education Meeting](#)

10.1.1.13. [Journal for Leadership and Instruction - Fall 2023](#)

10.1.2. Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE)

10.1.2.1. [Memorandum Regarding A Guide for Board of Education Chairs](#)

10.1.2.2. [2024 Legislative Priorities](#)

10.1.2.3. [2024 State Agenda](#)

10.1.3. Connecticut Association of Public Schools Superintendents (CAPSS) - None

10.1.4. United States Department of Education (USDE) - None

10.1.5. Department of Public Health (DPH) - None

10.1.6. Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE)

10.1.6.1. [Verification of Completion of DCF Mandated Trainings](#)

10.1.6.2. [Student Assessment News - January 2024](#)

10.2. Reports

10.2.1. General Reports

10.2.1.1. [McCall Behavioral Network Student Survey](#) - Superintendent Coss

**Steven Carr motioned** to take formal, public action (approval/denial) directing the Superintendent's response to McCall Behavioral Network's survey of students of Thomaston Public Schools approval and **Matthew VanOrmer seconded** for the denial. [Discussion Link](#)

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 8-0-0 (**Frank Treglia** was not present at the time of the voting)

10.2.2. Administrator Reports

10.2.2.1. [February 2024](#)

10.2.2.2. [Thomaston Public Schools Medical Health Compliance Protocol](#) - Andrea Peters, Director of Pupil Personnel Services

10.2.3. Residency Report - None

*(Policy 518 - Students - Nonresident Attendance/Tuition Students)*

10.2.4. Student Discipline Report

*(Policy 514.4 Students - Discipline)*

10.2.4.1. Expulsions

10.2.4.1.1. Expulsion Hearing Notice - Student A

10.2.4.1.2. Expulsion Hearing Notice - Student B

10.2.4.1.3. Expulsion Hearing Notice - Student C

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- 10.2.4.1.4. Expulsion Hearing Notice - Student D
  - 10.2.4.1.5. Expulsion Hearing Notice - Student E
  - 10.2.4.1.6. Expulsion Hearing Notice - Student F
  - 10.2.4.1.7. Retraction of Expulsion Hearing Notice - Student E
  - 10.2.4.1.8. Retraction of Expulsion Hearing Notice - Student F
  - 10.2.4.2. [Reparation for School Bus Seat Damage - Paid in full by student - February 1, 2024](#)
  - 10.2.5. Homeschooling Report  
([Policy 6172.3 - Instruction - Home Schooling](#))
    - 10.2.5.1. Letter of Intent to Homeschool - Superintendent's Acknowledgement - Student B
  - 10.2.6. Enrollment Report  
([Policy 5112 Students - Age of Attendance](#))
    - 10.2.6.1. [February 1, 2024](#)
    - 10.2.6.2. [2023-2024 Special Education Trend Report - Thomaston Public Schools](#)
  - 10.3. Contracts (*Please refer to the [January 2024 Business Manager's Report](#)*)
  - 10.4. Grants (*Please refer to the [January 2024 Business Manager's Report](#)*)
  - 10.5. General Information
    - 10.5.1. Fundraisers (*Please refer to the [January 2024 Business Manager's Report](#)*)
  - 10.6. Personnel (*\*Denotes Effective Date*)  
([Policy 4112/4212 - Personnel - Certified/Non-Certified Appointment and Conditions of Employment](#))
    - 10.6.1. New Hires
      - 10.6.1.1. Melanie Osuch, Full-Time Paraprofessional, Thomaston High School \*January 4, 2024
      - 10.6.1.2. Susan Cloney, Per Diem Substitute Cafeteria Worker, School Year Only, Thomaston Public Schools \*January 17, 2024
      - 10.6.1.3. Brooke Holway, Special Education Teacher, Thomaston Center School \*January 29, 2024
    - 10.6.2. Reassignment - None
    - 10.6.3. Transfer/New Assignments - None
    - 10.6.4. Resignations
      - 10.6.4.1. Donna Alfonzetti, Paraprofessional, Thomaston Center School \*January 26, 2024
      - 10.6.4.2. Susan Cloney, Per Diem Substitute Cafeteria Worker, School Year Only, Thomaston Public Schools \*January 23, 2024
      - 10.6.4.3. Tiffany Lorancaitis, Paraprofessional, Thomaston High School \*January 19, 2024
    - 10.6.5. Retirements - None
    - 10.6.6. Terminations - None
    - 10.6.7. Non-Renewals - None
    - 10.6.8. Stipends
      - 10.6.8.1. Jonathan Green - Wrestling Junior Varsity Coach - Thomaston High School

**Steven Carr motioned and Nathan Vieira 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

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 9-0-0

- 10.6.9. Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)  
([Policy 4152.6/4252.6 - Personnel - Certified/Non-Certified Personal Leaves Family and Medical Leave Act](#))
  - 10.6.9.1. [Employee F](#)
  - 10.6.9.2. [Employee G](#)
- 10.6.10. Interns and Student Teachers - None  
([Policy 1212 - Community Relations - School Volunteers](#))
- 10.7. Field Trips  
([Policy 6153 - Instruction Field Trips - Secondary Schools](#))
  - 10.7.1. [Florence and Rome, Italy - Travel Club - April 18-26, 2025](#)

**Nathan Vieira motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to accept/approve the Florence and Rome, Italy - Travel Club Field trip as presented.**

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 9-0-0

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10.8. Sales and Disposal of Books, Equipment and Supplies - None  
([Policy 3260 Business/Non-Instructional Operations Sales & Disposal of Books, Equipment & Supplies](#))

**11. Committee Reports ▲**

([Bylaws of the Board 9132 – Standing Committees](#) and [Bylaws of the Board 9133 – Special Committees/Advisory Committees](#))

11.1. [Budget Audit Committee](#)

11.1.1. [January 2023 Business Manager's Report](#)

11.1.1.1. Expenditures for the Month: \$1,871,153.63

**Steven Carr motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded** to approve the reduced budget for the 2024-2025 Operating Budget and the 2024-2029 Capital Budget as presented.

[Discussion Link:](#)

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 9-0-0

**Steven Carr motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded** to accept/approve the non-union employee annual pay rate increase formula as presented.

[Discussion Link:](#)

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 9-0-0

**Steven Carr motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded** to accept/approve Business and Finance Report and Expenditures per Policy 3432/3433 Business/Non-Instructional Operations - Budget & Expense Report/Annual Financial Statement as presented for January 2024.

[Discussion Link](#)

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 9-0-0

11.2. [Policy Committee](#)

([Policy 2231-Administration/Policy and Regulation Systems](#))

**Matthew VanOrmer motioned and Nathan Vieira seconded** to accept/approve Policy 3281 - School Fundraisers as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 9-0-0

**Matthew VanOrmer motioned and Nathan Vieira seconded** to accept/approve Policy 6141.322 - Posting of Student Work/Photographs as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 9-0-0

**12. Executive Session for the purpose of a mid-year evaluation meeting of the Superintendent based on the effectiveness of her leadership in implementation and achievement of district goals and for the purpose of the leadership team self-assessment based on the effectiveness of their leadership in implementation and achievement of Board goals.**

**Matthew VanOrmer motioned and Steven Carr seconded** to enter into Executive Session at 9:07 p.m. for the purpose of a mid-year evaluation meeting of the Superintendent based on the effectiveness of her leadership in implementation and achievement of district goals and for the purpose of the leadership team self-assessment based on the effectiveness of their leadership in implementation and achievement of Board goals and inviting Superintendent Coss into Executive Session.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 9-0-0

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**13. Exit Executive Session/Enter Regular Session at 10:22 p.m.**

No action taken during the Executive Session.

**14. Adjournment**

**Beth Campbell motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded** to adjourn the meeting. (Steven Carr was absent for the adjournment)

**Chairperson Roxy Fainer** adjourned the meeting at 10:23 p.m.