

**Thomaston Board of Education  
Regular Meeting  
Thomaston Town Hall, Meeting Room One  
March 9, 2009  
7:00 p.m.**



**Minutes**

**Present:** Laurie Barrett, Holly Herbert, Beth Yaffe, Laura Rieley, Cheryl Roberts, Deborah April and \*Joanne Gilland (arrived 7:06 p.m.)

**Absent:** Steve Catania and Lucy Santopietro

**Also Present:** Superintendent, Lynda Mitchell; Business Manager, Susan Laone; Board Clerk, Patricia George; High School Principal, James Wenker; High School Vice Principal, John Perrucci; Black Rock School Principal, Paul Johnson; Thomaston Center School Principal, James Diorio; Pupil Services Director, Nancy Schyner; and Student Board Representative, Nick Guertin

**I. Establishment of a quorum and call to order:**

Chairperson, Laurie Barrett established a quorum and called to order the Regular Meeting of the Thomaston Board of Education at 7:00 p.m.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

Student Representative, Nick Guertin, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. Approval of Agenda:**

On a motion made by Deborah April and seconded by Beth Yaffe to approve/accept the agenda with the following amendments:

- Under VIII: Communications, subsection F – field trips, add an item 4: Faculty member Jeff Roberts and the Science Fair Program students to visit the New York City Museum of Natural History, April 8, 2009
- Under IX: Superintendent’s Report, add a subsection C: Board Spokesperson (to be discussed annually) with a vote to accept/approve

Motion carried unanimously.

**IV. Nomination of New Budget Subcommittee Chair:**

On a motion made by Beth Yaffe and seconded by Deborah April to approve/accept Holly Herbert as the newly appointed Budget Subcommittee Chair; motion carried unanimously.

**V. Approval of Minutes:**

Budget Subcommittee Meeting dated February 5, 2009

On a motion made by Holly Herbert and seconded by Cheryl Roberts to approve/accept the minutes as presented; Deborah April, Beth Yaffe and Laura Rieley abstain; motion carried unanimously.

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education dated February 9, 2009

On a motion made by Deborah April and seconded by Holly Herbert to approve/accept the minutes as presented; Beth Yaffe and Laura Riely abstain; motion carried unanimously.

Special Meeting of the Board of Education dated February 11, 2009

On a motion made by Deborah April and seconded by Holly Herbert to approve/accept the minutes as presented; Beth Yaffe and Laura Rieley abstain; motion carried unanimously.

Special Meeting of the Board of Education dated February 18, 2009

On a motion made by Deborah April and seconded by Beth Yaffe to approve/accept the minutes as presented; motion carried unanimously.

\*Board member, Joanne Gilland arrived 7:06 p.m.

Special Meeting of the Board of Education dated March 2, 2009

On a motion made by Deborah April and seconded by Beth Yaffe to approve/accept the minutes as presented; Cheryl Roberts abstains; motion carried unanimously.

**VI. Best Mentor/Board Recognition Presentation:**

Superintendent Mitchell, along with the Board of Education members, recognized the Best Mentors in the district. In addition, Board members were recognized for their service to the Board of Education. A light reception was held in their honor.

**VII. Public Participation:**

Mr. Tim Scatena  
67 Patricia Lane  
Thomaston, CT

Found it difficult to understand the 0% increase; his interests do not lie with cutting sports; concerned about the layoff of 9.4 teachers

Ms. Barbara Lee  
16 Edwin Lane  
Thomaston, CT

Appalled that the district is considering cutting 9.4 teachers

**VIII. Communications:**

A through G:

On a motion made by Beth Yaffe and seconded by Deborah April to approve/accept Communications A through G as presented; motion carried unanimously.

**H. Personnel:**

On a motion made by Deborah April and seconded by Beth Yaffe to approve/accept the receipt of and action upon recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools concerning the institution of teacher non-renewals pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151 (due to budget constraints); motion carried unanimously.

**IX. Superintendent's Report**

**A. Employee of the Month: Barbara Jarvis**

Superintendent Mitchell deferred to Principal James Wenker to provide a few words regarding employee-of-the-month, Barbara Jarvis. Mr. Wenker said that Barbara does a marvelous job; teachers and parents say she repeatedly does things she is asked to do.

**B. Student of the Month: Jamison Kissh**

Superintendent Mitchell asked that her report regarding Jamison be deferred until next month's meeting, after she has had the opportunity to introduce him at the monthly Rotary Luncheon.

**C. Board Spokesperson:**

Superintendent Mitchell suggested that the Board have one individual responsible for speaking to the press. Determination of the individual has been tabled until next month's meeting.

On a motion made by Joanne Gilland and seconded by Holly Herbert to institute a spokesperson to the Board of Education; motion carried unanimously.

**X. Business Manager's Report: no report**

**XI. Administrators' Reports:**

**A. Pupil Services Director, Nancy Schnyer - Ms. Schnyer drew attention to several items that were included in her written report:**

- Civil Rights Data Collection report completed
- Working on a Special Education Manual
- Thanked Deborah Sanford for getting the new forms on the Special Education teachers' laptops

**B. High School Principal, James Wenker noted the following information in addition to his written report:**

- Continues to implement the recommendations of the NEASC
- Developed Advisory Program
- Changes made to the CMT/CAPT testing schedule

**C. Thomaston Center School Principal, James Diorio brought forward the following:**

- Math Nights
- CMT Rally and Recycling Program

D. Black Rock School Principal, Paul Johnson noted the following:

- Jump Rope for Heart
- Carolyn Morrison's work with regards to grant writing
- Kindergarten orientation

**XII. Student Representatives' Reports:**

Student Representative, Nick Guertin, noted that Spirit Week went well with the teachers

losing in the faculty vs. student basketball game. He also indicated that the seniors were processing scholarship applications.

**XIII. Standing Committee Reports:**

A. Budget

1. Budget Expenditures:

On a motion made by Deborah April and seconded by Cheryl Roberts to approve/accept the budget expenditures as presented; motion carried unanimously.

2. Early Retirement Discussion:

It was the consensus of the Board not to offer an early retirement incentive.

B. Curriculum/Instruction:

Superintendent Mitchell updated the Board with summer curriculum planning.

C. Maintenance/Facilities:

No report

D. Technology:

No report

E. Personnel:

No Report

F. Transportation:

No report

G. Athletics:

No report

H. Long Range Task Force/Building Committee:

No report

I. Policy:

No report

J. Government Relations:

No report

K. Affiliations:

No report

**XIV. Old Business:**

No report

**XV. New Business:**

Carolyn Morrison provided the Board with the results of the Community Planning Survey

**XVI. Items for Future Agendas:**

None

**XVII. Executive Session:**

**XVII. Adjournment:**

On a motion made by Deborah April and seconded by Beth Yaffe to adjourn the meeting of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education at 7:58 p.m.; motion carried unanimously.