

**Minutes**  
**THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Regular Meeting**

Thomaston Town Hall – Teen Center

Date: Monday, October 18, 2010

7:00 p.m.



**Members:** Laurie Barrett, Chair; Beth Keutzer, Vice Chair; Lucy Santopietro, Secretary; Laura Rieley, Treasurer; Joanne Gilland, Holly Herbert, Roxy Fainer, George Counter and Steve Catania, Members

**Minutes**

**Present:** Laurie Barrett, Lucy Santopietro, George Counter, Holly Herbert, Roxy Fainer, Laura Rieley, and Joanne Gilland

**Absent:** Beth Keutzer and Steve Catania

**Also Present:** Superintendent, Lynda Mitchell; Business Manager, Sue Laone; Black Rock School/Thomaston Center School Administrators, Anne Uberti and Alisha Lyons; High School Administrators, John Perrucci and Jonathan Kozlak; Board Clerk, Patricia George and Student Representatives Curtis Dunn and Alexander Lee

**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 Alexander Lee led the pledge of allegiance.

**III. Approval of Agenda:**

On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Holly Herbert to approve/accept the agenda with the following amendments:

Under X. Standing Committee Reports, Subsection I. Policy, add an item 1. Lice

No further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

**IV. Approval of Minutes:**

On a motion made by George Counter and seconded by Holly Herbert to approve/accept the minutes for the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education dated September 13, 2010; no further discussion, Lucy Santopietro abstained, motion carried.

On a motion made by George Counter and seconded by Holly Herbert to approve/accept the minutes for the Special Meeting of the Board of Education dated October 1, 2010; no further discussion, Roxy Fainer abstained; motion carried.

V. **Student Representatives' Reports:**

Board Chair, Laurie Barrett, acknowledged newly appointed Student Representative Curtis Dunn and welcomed back Alex Lee. The students provided reports on events at the high school including homecoming activities and a benefit concert for veterans.

VI. **Communications:**

On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Holly Herbert to approve/accept all Communications as presented;

Further Discussion:

Superintendent Mitchell made a few statements relating to the new music teacher, Kathleen Boyles, stating that she will be a wonderful addition to the district.

Motion carried unanimously.

VII. **Superintendent's Report:**

- A. Student of the Month September (Hannah Martin): Superintendent Mitchell stated that Hannah is an achiever, over the top, and provided an excellent presentation to the Rotary.
- B. Student of the Month October (Kurtis Nedderman): Superintendent Mitchell read from Kurtis' resume and gave a few examples of the activities that he participated in during his years at the high school. She said that both students provided very interesting speeches at Rotary.
- C. Emergency Planning: The Administrators and Superintendent Mitchell met with Chief Torrence recently to review the district's emergency evacuation plans. Each year the plans are reviewed and edited appropriately. The ultimate goal is to establish plans for each emergency situation that may occur within the district.
- D. Technology: It was important to Superintendent Mitchell, as the district begins the budget process, to provide a brief synopsis of the growth of technology within the district. With every piece of software the district assumes, there are maintenance pieces that accompany that software. Over a period of several years, the cumulative effect begins to become unmanageable. Tim Polowy planned to make a more in-depth presentation later in the meeting.
- E. Public Relations: Superintendent Mitchell continued her discussion of implementing a public relations committee and asked for Board representation.
- F. College Acceptance: An informational piece provided to the Board on where the district's students are applying to colleges and whether or not they were accepted, declined or waitlisted.

VIII. **Business Manager's Report:** written report

Questions posed to the business manager addressed the underground oil tank at the Center school, the overcrowding situation on the WAMS bus, the request for a high school resource officer, and the JOBS Funds monies.

IX. **Administrators' Reports:**

- A. Pupil Services Director, Nancy Schnyer (no report for October)
- B. High School Principal, John Perrucci  
Principal Perrucci gave each Board member a CD with the K-12 math curriculum content. The CD also includes a file called notes and has the NEASC guidelines

for curriculum. Mr. Perrucci provided the district's strengths and weaknesses based on those guidelines.

- C. Two Schools Principal (BRS and TCS), Anne Uberti  
Principal Uberti had nothing to add to her written report. Board member George Counter asked that she investigate the fire retardant rating of the new auditorium curtain.

**X. Standing Committee Reports:**

- A. Budget:
  - 1. Budget Expenditures
  - 2. Monthly Transfers  
On a motion made by Laura Rieley and seconded by George Counter to approve/accept the budget expenditures and transfers as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.
  - 3. Education Jobs Fund  
To recap, the district is looking at hiring a library media specialist, high school resource officer and a special education teacher. The funds will pull the district through June 2012.
  - 4. 2010-2011 First Quarter Financial Summary (informational, as presented)
- B. Curriculum and Instruction: n/a
- C. Maintenance/Facilities:
  - 1. Building repairs vs. dollars  
The underlying message - does the district repair items as they arise or, do they wait and have further fixes down the road, which equates to more expenses incurred at one time?
- D. Technology:
  - 1. Technology Growth Review/Future Plans (Tim Polowy)  
Technology Coordinator, Tim Polowy, gave the Board a handout on technology within the district and followed up with a verbal overview. The report touched on where the district is, the problems, where we are stretched, and what he would like included in the 2011-2012 technology budget.
- E. Personnel: n/a
- F. Transportation:
  - 1. Magnet Transportation  
Business Manager Sue Laone was apprised of a parental concern regarding overcrowding on the Waterbury Arts Magnet (WAMS) school bus. It appears that student carryon items such as backpacks, music instruments and other cumbersome objects are taking up seating space. The fallout is overcrowding. Ms. Laone is working with the bus company to resolve the issue.

G. Athletics: n/a

H. Long Range Task Force/Building Committee: n/a

I. Policy:

1. Lice

The district's nurses met with Pupil Services Director Nancy Schnyer to establish a Lice protocol. The protocol now needs to transition to district policy.

J. Government Relations: n/a

K. Affiliations: n/a

L. Legislation: n/a

**XI. Public Participation: n/a**

**XII. Old Business:**

**XIII. New Business: n/a**

**XIV. Items for Future Agendas:**

A. Board Chair Laurie Barrett asked that the following items be placed on future agendas - Technology Funding and Lice Protocol.

**XV. Executive Session: n/a**

**XVI. Adjournment:**

On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Holly Herbert to dismiss the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education at 8:27 p.m.; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.