



Minutes
THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting
Thomaston Town Hall – Meeting Room One
Date: Monday, December 12, 2011
7:00 p.m.

Members: **Lucy Santopietro, Chair; Roxy Fainer, Vice Chair; Kathleen Freimuth, Secretary; Holly Herbert, Treasurer; Rebecca Guay, Member; Alexander Lee, Member; Anne Petrucci, Member; Joanne Gilland, Member; Debra Schriver, Member**

Minutes

Present: Lucy Santopietro, Roxy Fainer, Kathleen Freimuth, Holly Herbert, Rebecca Guay, Alex Lee, Joanne Gilland, Anne Petrucci, and Debra Schriver

Absent: N/A

Also Present: Superintendent, Lynda Mitchell; Business Manager, Sue Laone; Pupil Services Director, Nancy Schnyer; Black Rock School/Thomaston Center School Administrators, Anne Uberti and Alisha DiCorpo; High School Administrator, John Perrucci; and Board Clerk, Patricia George

I. Establishment of a quorum and call to order:
Superintendent Mitchell 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:
Superintendent Mitchell led the pledge of allegiance

III. Nomination of Board Chair:
Superintendent Mitchell asked the Board to nominate a chairperson.

Lucy Santopietro was nominated by Debra Schriver and seconded by Rebecca Guay to serve as chair.

Roxie Fainer was nominated by Kathleen Freimuth and seconded by Anne Petrucci to serve as chair.

Superintendent Mitchell called for a vote in the order that the nominations were received.

Votes cast for Lucy to serve as chair totaled five

Votes cast for Roxy to serve as chair totaled four.

Lucy Santopietro was elected by the Board in a 5 to 4 vote to serve as **Chair**

IV. Election of Officers:

Board Chair, Lucy Santopietro asked for nominations of Board officers:

Roxy Fainer was nominated by Joanne Gilland and seconded by Kathleen Freimuth to serve as **Vice Chair**

Kathleen Freimuth was nominated by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Roxy Fainer to serve as **Secretary**

Holly Herbert was nominated by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Debra Schriver to serve as **Treasurer**

All carried unanimously.

Board of Education Members

Roxie Fainer	Vice Chair	Alex Lee	Member
Kathleen Freimuth	Secretary	Anne Petrucci	Member
Joanne Gilland	Member	Lucy Santopietro	Chair
Rebecca Guay	Member	Debra Schriver	Member
Holly Herbert	Treasurer		

V. Nominations of subcommittees and chairs:

Board Chair, Lucy Santopietro called for nominations of Board Subcommittee members and respective chairpersons:

Subcommittee	<u>Committee Chairperson</u>	Member	Member	Member
Athletics	Holly Herbert	Alex Lee	Anne Petrucci	Rebecca Guay
Budget	Lucy Santopietro	Roxy Fainer	Kathleen Freimuth	
Building/Facilities	Rebecca Guay	Holly Herbert		
CABE	Joanne Gilland			
Curriculum	Anne Petrucci	Lucy Santopietro	Joanne Gilland	Debra Schriver
Education Connection	Lucy Santopietro	Debra Schriver		
Education Enrichment	Joanne Gilland	Lucy Santopietro		
Negotiations	Roxy Fainer	Kathleen Freimuth		
Personnel	Debra Schriver	Holly Herbert	Joanne Gilland	
Policies	Joanne Gilland	Alex Lee		
Transportation	Holly Herbert	Rebecca Guay		
Technology (new)	Alex Lee	Lucy Santopietro	Kathleen Freimuth	Joanne Gilland

VI. Approval of Agenda:

On a motion made by Roxy Fainer and seconded by Kathleen Freimuth to accept/approve the agenda as presented, no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

VII. Approval of Board of Education Minutes:

On a motion made by Joanne Gilland and seconded by Holly Herbert to approve/accept the Board of Education minutes dated Monday, November 14, 2011 at 7:00 p.m., no further discussion, New Board members Anne Petrucci, Rebecca Guay, Alex Lee, Kathleen Freimuth and Debra Schriver abstain; motion carried unanimously.

On a motion made by Holly Herbert and seconded by Roxy Fainer to approve/accept the Board of Education minutes dated Monday, November 14, 2011 at 6:00 p.m., no further discussion, Joanne Gilland and new Board Members Anne Petrucci, Rebecca Guay, Alex Lee, Kathleen Freimuth and Debra Schriver abstain, motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Student Representative Reports:

New student representatives, Caleb Zenobia and Caroline Fox, were on hand to observe the Board meeting. The students will begin their Board reports commencing with the January 9, 2012 Board meeting.

XI. Communications:

A. New Hires:

On a motion made by Roxy Fainer and seconded by Rebecca Guay to approve/accept the new hires as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

B. Resignations/Retirements/Exit Interviews: n/a

C. Athletics: n/a

D. Transfers: n/a

E. Leaves of Absence:

On a motion made by Joanne Gilland and seconded by Alex Lee to approve/accept the leave of absence as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

F. Field Trips: n/a

G. Correspondence:

Informational, as presented.

X. Superintendent's Report:

- A. Student of the Month for December: Sarah Voor
Superintendent Mitchell recently attended a Rotary luncheon where high school student, Sarah Voor spoke as December's Student-of-the-Month. Ms. Mitchell summarized Sarah's resume stating that Sarah is number one in her class at the present. She is a student that has an interest in the biomedical field and may be interested in exploring the medical field.
- B. Board Training: Ms. Mitchell reminded the Board members there will be a training session which has been scheduled for January 7, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. Mr. Nick Caruso of CAFE will lead the session.
- C. Teacher Evaluation that Works
Several district administrators recently attended a teacher evaluation workshop with Superintendent Mitchell. Many districts would like to work on the new document in light of the many changes that are occurring at the state.
- D. Student Success Planning
Lucy Santopietro and Lynda Mitchell attended a recent Student Success Planning workshop. This state mandated initiative will include career, academic, and social components for students in grades 6-12. Ms. Mitchell stated that it will have tremendous time constraints and possible dollars associated with it.

XI. Business Manager's Report:

Business Manager, Sue Laone, had nothing to add to her written report. The Board did not present any questions.

X. Administrators' Reports:

- A. Pupil Services Director, Nancy Schnyer
Ms. Schnyer indicated that she did not have anything to add to her written report.
- B. High School Principal, John Perrucci
Principal Perrucci made a few additional comments regarding student-of-the-month Sarah Voor, specifically highlighting that Sarah was a Governor's Scholar last year. This recognition is based solely on a student's own application process and only a handful of students in the state are recognized.

Mr. Perrucci stated that the master schedule is working well and he has received positive feedback. The only concern is the time between classes.

He has asked that Assistant Principal Kozlak track class tardiness comparatively from last year to this year. This comparison has yielded a 10% increase over last year but, he felt it was too soon in the year to draw any conclusions.

The NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges) five year report is due in March. The NEASC has made several recommendations that need to be answered to, one being Guidance Curriculum. Mr. Perrucci indicated that currently, a guidance curriculum does not exist. He further stated that even if one did, there is no infrastructure to implement it. He noted that he will be working with the Superintendent and union on this specific recommendation.

The SSP (Student Success Plan) will change how the district will approach students from a guidance perspective. He feels with the NEASC and SSP legislation, that there will be obstacles in the planning.

Principal Perrucci indicated that there is still a leak in the boiler that was just repaired. It is imperative that the boilers are repaired and operational to avoid school closure. He provided a brief overview of the boiler repair process to bring the new Board members up-to-date.

With regards to PowerSchool, Mr. Perrucci noted that the parent portal is up and running with over 200 parents/students logging in.

BRS/TCS: “Two Schools...One Mission”, Anne Uberti
Principal Uberti had nothing to add to her written report.

XI. Standing Committee Reports:

A. Budget

On a motion made by Holly Herbert and seconded by Joanne Gilland to approve/accept the budget line y-t-d expenditures in the amount of \$4,762,454.15 and monthly transfers as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

B. Curriculum/Instruction: n/a

C. Maintenance/Facilities:

1. Phone System Update

Superintendent Mitchell indicated that there have been some problems with the new phone system and subsequently a meeting was convened with management personnel of the phone company.

Business Manager, Sue Laone told the Board what was being done to address the issue including having a technician dispatched to the district to

investigate and troubleshoot, converting the phone system to a new T1 line by Tim Polowy, and having computers set up to troubleshoot the data.

Sue Laone assured the Board members that resolving the issue is a high priority and is working diligently to get the matter settled.

D. Technology: n/a

E. Personnel: n/a

F. Transportation: n/a

G. Athletics: n/a

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

H. Policy:

On a motion made by Joanne Gilland and seconded by Holly Herbert to amend the agenda to include the policy pertaining to the Administration of Medication.

Ms. Gilland, who reviewed the policy as part of the subcommittee, provided the Board with a brief synopsis of the updates to the policy and then asked that the Board approve it as presented.

It was noted that if the Board felt they needed more information, Nurse Coordinator, Beth Carangelo, would be made available at a future Board meeting to field any questions or concerns that they might have. It was the consensus of the Board that Beth would not be needed.

On a motion made by Joanne Gilland and seconded by Holly Herbert to accept/approve the policy as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

I. Government Relations: n/a

J. Affiliations:

K. Legislation: n/a

XII. Public Participation:

Kim Foss

Ms. Foss made an inquiry regarding the status of the technology department with the resignation of Tim Polowy.

XIII. Old Business:

A. No School, No Play Policy

Prior Board Member George Counter wanted to bring this policy to the new Board for review and consideration in order to provide more leeway to the Superintendent when making decisions on whether to cancel athletics events on inclement weather days, which may improve by the time an athletic event is to occur. The item has been tabled for a future agenda.

B. School Climate Policy

The item was tabled for approval at the January 9, 2012 meeting.

XIV. New Business:

XV. Items for Future Agendas:

XVI. Executive Session:

XVII. Adjournment:

On a motion made by Holly Herbert and seconded by Kathleen Freimuth to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education at 8:00 p.m.; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.