

Minutes
THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special Meeting

Thomaston Town Hall – Meeting Room One

Date: Wednesday, June 22, 2011

6:00 p.m.



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

Minutes

Present: Laurie Barrett, Laura Fitch, George Counter, Lucy Santopietro, Roxy Fainer

Absent: Steve Catania, Joanne Gilland, Holly Herbert, and Beth Keutzer

Also Present: Superintendent, Lynda Mitchell; Attorney for the Board, Nick Grello; Louise Dwan, the grievant; Tim Oppenheimer, AFSCME Council 4 Representative; Joan Batten, Local AFSCME Vice President

I. Establishment of a quorum and call to order:

Presiding Board Member Laurie Barrett established a quorum and called to order the Special Meeting of the Thomaston Board of Education at 6:00 p.m.

II. Approval of Agenda:

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

III. Grievance Matter Continued:

General Points:

- It was restated that Louise Dwan had quit to Assistant Principal, Mrs. Lyons and called the Superintendent's office to tell Patricia George that she had quit, she did not get terminated.
- Mrs. Uberti, Principal of BRS/TCS, provided copies of prior non-paid request forms for time off and copies of time cards. One of the requests showed that Louise was granted the time off she had requested on May 6th for her daughter's surgery. The request form in question (for time off on May 20th) did not have a reason for the time off. It was only on her time card that Louise Dwan had pre-written in the space for Friday that she was visiting her daughter.
- Mrs. Lyons also confirmed what had happened
- Evidence was also presented that many documents of the Thomaston Board of Education were deleted from the computer of Louise Dwan by Louise herself on the day she quit. There were no personal pictures deleted as stated by Louise Dwan.
- Questions were asked to Mrs. Uberti and Mrs. Lyons about the incident from Tim Oppenheimer, AFSCME union representative. They answered and gave copies of time cards and request forms.

VI. **Executive Session:**

On a motion made by Laura Fitch and seconded by George Counter to move into Executive Session to continue discussions on a personnel grievance matter (deliberations); no further discussion; motion carried unanimously. The following persons entered Executive Sessions at 6:25 p.m.:

Nick Grello, Attorney for the Board
Laura Fitch, Treasurer, Board of Education
Roxy Fainer, Member, Board of Education
Lucy Santopietro, Secretary, Board of Education
Laurie Barrett, Chair, Board of Education
George Counter, Member, Board of Education

VI. **Public Session**

On a motion made by George Counter and seconded by Lucy Santopietro to move to Public Session at 6:50 p.m.; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

Board Motion:

On a motion made by Roxy Fainer and seconded by Laura Fitch to deny the grievance presented by Louise Dwan, no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

A roll call of each Board Member was made; all five members replied with a “denial” of grievance.

VII. **Adjournment:**

On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by George Counter to adjourn the Special Meeting of the Board of Education at 6:55 p.m.; no further discussions; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucy Santopietro