



A G E N D A
THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

Monday, April 8, 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 CABE 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](#))

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](#))

Vote to accept/approve the agenda of the Board of Education Meeting dated April 8, 2024 as presented.

4. Public Participation ▲▲▲

([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 dated February 12, 2024](#)

Vote to accept/approve the Thomaston Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes dated February 12, 2024 as presented.

5.2. [Thomaston Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes dated February 15, 2024](#)

Vote to accept/approve the Thomaston Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes dated February 15, 2024 as presented.

5.3. [Thomaston Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes dated March 5, 2024 – Students A, B and C](#)

Vote to accept/approve the Thomaston Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes dated March 5, 2024 as presented.

5.4. [Thomaston Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes dated March 6, 2024 – Students E, F and G](#)

Vote to accept/approve the Thomaston Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes dated March 6, 2024 as presented.

5.5. [Thomaston Board of Education Meeting Minutes dated April 2, 2024 – Students A & H](#)

Vote to accept/approve the Thomaston Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes dated April 2, 2024 as presented.

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. [March 2024 Rotary Student of the Month – Haley Bethin](#)

6.2. Students of the Month - February 2024

Grade 12: Aubrey Jackson
Grade 11: Mason Allen
Grade 10: Kylee Ballance
Grade 9: Taylor Stadalnik
Grade 8: Collin Moser

Grade 7: Britta Saghafi
Grade 6: Ethan Peck
Grade 5: Wynne Norck
Grade 4: Kai Martinik
Grade 3: Griffin Hawley

Grade 2: Beatrix O'Mara
Grade 1: Lola Pelletier
Kindergarten: John Tammaro
Preschool: Kinsley Cavallo

6.3. Students of the Month - March 2024

Grade 12: Haley Bethin
Grade 11: Kaelin Devaux
Grade 10: Gracie Marble
Grade 9: Briana Belanger
Grade 8: Dustin Galpin

Grade 7: Tess Harkness
Grade 6: Autumn Dodge
Grade 5: Jodie Lee
Grade 4: Caleb Frohloff
Grade 3: Scott Palladino

Grade 2: Aamir Malik
Grade 1: Jack Tita
Kindergarten: Cataleya Lopez
Preschool: Ellie Commendatore

6.4. [Ava Harkness, Grade 12, 1,000 Point Scorer, Thomaston Girls Basketball](#)

6.5. [Berkshire League Title - Thomaston High School Girls Basketball Team](#)

6.6. [March 2024 Staff Spotlight - Megan Kellogg, Library Media Specialist, Thomaston Center School](#)

6.7. [April 2024 Staff Spotlight - Jessica Freeman, K-6 Mathematics Coach, Thomaston Public Schools](#)

7. Presentations ▲▲▲

(Bylaws of the Board 0410 – Public Announcement of Accomplishments)

7.1. [Increasing Educator Diversity Plan \(DRAFT\)](#) - Kristen DiVenere, Human Resources Generalist

Vote to accept/approve the Increasing Educator Diversity Plan (DRAFT) as presented.

7.2. Non-Renewal of Teachers Process - Nicholas Grello, Attorney, Thomaston Board of Education

7.3. [District Attendance/Truancy, Aaron Bunel, Thomaston High School Assistant Principal](#)

7.4. [2024-2025 Bell Schedule - Thomaston High School - Aaron Bunel, Thomaston High School Assistant Principal](#)

8. Student Representatives Report ▲▲▲

(Bylaws of the Board 0160 – Student Representation on the Board of Education)

8.1. [March 2024](#)

8.2. [April 2024](#)

9. Chairperson's Report ▲▲▲

(Bylaws of the Board 0121 – Office of the Chairperson)

9.1. [Board Appreciation Month - March 2024 - Thomaston Board of Education Members](#)

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

9.3. [Thomaston High School Second Quarter Honor Roll](#)

9.4. [Proposed Changes 2024-2025 District Calendar - Thomaston Public Schools](#)

Vote to accept/approve the proposed changes to the 2024-2025 District Calendar - Thomaston Public Schools as presented.

9.5. [Proposed Changes to the 2024-2025 Board of Education Meeting Calendar - Thomaston Public Schools](#)

Vote to accept/approve the proposed changes to the 2024-2025 Board of Education Meeting Calendar - Thomaston Public Schools as presented.

9.6. [Request from First Selectman Edmond Mone to Superintendent Francine Coss and Board of Education Chairperson Roxey Fainer Regarding Funding for Future Restoration of the Nystrom Park's Track](#)

Vote to accept/approve the Board of Selectmen request to have the Board of Education submit a capital request of \$10,000 each fiscal year for the shared maintenance of Nystrom's Park.

10. Superintendent's Report ▲▲▲

(Policy 2131 – Administration – Superintendent of Schools)

10.1. Correspondence

10.1.1. Superintendent

10.1.1.1. [Thank You Letter to Jennifer Irazabal for February 12, 2024 Board of Education Meeting Presentation](#)

10.1.1.2. [Thank You Letter to Aaron Bunel for February 12, 2024 Board of Education Meeting Presentation](#)

10.1.1.3. [Thank You Letter to Patrick Hyres for February 12, 2024 Board of Education Meeting Presentation](#)

10.1.1.4. [Thank You Letter to Spencer Luthy for February 12, 2024 Board of Education Meeting Presentation](#)

10.1.1.5. [Thank You Letter to Christopher O'Keefe from the Thomaston Board of Education Members for Donation of Refrigerator to Black Rock School](#)

10.1.1.6. [Thank You Card from Kimberly Guerrero to Superintendent Coss, Staff and Members of the Thomaston Board of Education](#)

10.1.1.7. [Thank You Letter to Shannon Haluchack, Teacher, Effective School Solutions, from Superintendent Coss](#)

DRAFT UNTIL BOARD APPROVED

- 10.1.1.8. [Effective School Solutions - MINDBEAT - Harnessing the Power of Professional Development](#)
- 10.1.1.9. [Effective School Solutions - MINDBEAT - Upcoming Grant Deadlines](#)
- 10.1.1.10. [Effective School Solutions - MINDBEAT - Prioritizing Mental Wellness](#)
- 10.1.1.11. [Effective School Solutions - MINDBEAT - Student Athletes and Mental Health](#)
- 10.1.1.12. [Effective School Solutions - MINDBEAT - Tips for Parents and Caregivers](#)
- 10.1.1.13. [Effective School Solutions - Insights & Solutions - Self-Injury Awareness Day](#)
- 10.1.1.14. [Effective School Solutions - MINDBEAT - 5 Teens Making a Difference](#)
- 10.1.1.15. [Thank You Email from Heidi Laus to Superintendent Coss and the Thomaston Board of Education](#)
- 10.1.1.16. [Thank You Card from Molly Depaiva to Superintendent Coss](#)
- 10.1.1.17. [Thank You Card from Andrew Deacon to Superintendent Coss](#)
- 10.1.1.18. [Letter of Recommendation to the Members of the State Board of Education Recommending Megan Campbell for the Position of Student Representative in 2024-2025](#)
- 10.1.1.19. [Written Testimony for the February 15, 2024 Appropriations Committee Public Hearing on the Governor's Proposed FY2025 Budget Adjustments for Elementary and Secondary Education Agencies Regarding H.B. 5050](#)
- 10.1.1.20. [Written Testimony for the February 15, 2024 Appropriations Committee Public Hearing on the Governor's Proposed FY2025 Budget Adjustments for Elementary and Secondary Education Agencies Regarding H.B. 5047](#)
- 10.1.1.21. [Written Testimony for the February 15, 2024 Appropriations Committee Public Hearing on the Governor's Proposed FY2025 Budget Adjustments for Elementary and Secondary Education Agencies Regarding Excess Cost](#)
- 10.1.1.22. [Written Testimony for the February 15, 2024 Appropriations Committee Public Hearing on the Governor's Proposed FY2025 Budget Adjustments for Elementary and Secondary Education Agencies Regarding Governor's Budget/Aspiring Educators Program/CSDE Increasing Educator Diversity Plan](#)
- 10.1.2. Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) - None
- 10.1.3. Connecticut Association of Public Schools Superintendents (CAPSS)
 - 10.1.3.1. [CAPSS Public Policy and Blueprint Update 2024](#)
- 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. [Student Assessment News](#)
 - 10.1.6.2. [Performance Matters](#)
- 10.2. Reports
 - 10.2.1. General Reports
 - 10.2.1.1. [2021-2022 U.S. Department of Education Civil Rights Data Collection - Thomaston Public Schools](#)
 - 10.2.2. Administrator Reports
 - 10.2.2.1. [March 2024](#)
 - 10.2.2.2. [April 2024](#)
 - 10.2.3. Residency Report
 - (Policy 5118 - Students - Nonresident Attendance/Tuition Students)*
 - 10.2.3.1. Residency Determination Letter - Student A
 - 10.2.3.2. Residency Determination Letter - Student B
 - 10.2.3.3. Residency Determination Letter - Student C
 - 10.2.3.4. Residency Determination Letter - Student D
 - 10.2.3.5. Residency Determination Letter - Student E
 - 10.2.3.6. Residency Hearing Notice - Student A
 - 10.2.3.7. Residency Hearing Notice - Student B
 - 10.2.3.8. Residency Hearing Notice - Student C

- 10.2.4. Student Discipline Report
(Policy 5144 Students - Discipline)
 - 10.2.4.1. Expulsions
 - 10.2.4.1.1. Rescheduled Expulsion Hearing Notice - Student A
 - 10.2.4.1.2. Rescheduled Expulsion Hearing Notice - Student B
 - 10.2.4.1.3. Rescheduled Expulsion Hearing Notice - Student C
 - 10.2.4.1.4. Expulsion Hearing Notice - Student E
 - 10.2.4.1.5. Expulsion Hearing Notice - Student F
 - 10.2.4.1.6. Expulsion Hearing Notice - Student G
 - 10.2.4.1.7. Expulsion Hearing Notice - Student H
- 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
 - 10.2.5.2. Letter of Intent to Homeschool - Superintendent's Acknowledgement - Student C
 - 10.2.5.3. Letter of Intent to Homeschool - Student D
- 10.2.6. Enrollment Report
(Policy 5112 Students - Age of Attendance)
 - 10.2.6.1. [March 1, 2024](#)
 - 10.2.6.2. [April 1, 2024](#)
- 10.3. Contracts *(Please refer to the [February 2024](#) & [March 2024](#) Business Manager's Report)*
- 10.4. Grants - None
- 10.5. General Information
 - 10.5.1. Fundraisers *(Please refer to the [February 2024](#) & [March 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. Brandon Cousins, History/Social Studies Teacher, Thomaston High School*February 26, 2024
 - 10.6.1.2. Sophia Squatriglia, Full-time Paraprofessional, Thomaston Center School*February 26, 2024
 - 10.6.1.3. Joshua Stiebel, Science/Social Studies Teacher, Thomaston Center School*March 11, 2024
 - 10.6.1.4. MaryBeth Johnson, Lunch Monitor, Thomaston Center School*March 11, 2024
 - 10.6.1.5. Alyssa Misenti, Paraprofessional, Thomaston Center School*March 25, 2024
 - 10.6.2. Reassignment - None
 - 10.6.3. Transfer/New Assignments
 - 10.6.3.1. Brandon Lynn (additional assignment) - Homebound Tutor*February 5, 2024
 - 10.6.3.2. Sara Walker, from full-time Paraprofessional to full-time NAEYC Qualified Paraprofessional, Black Rock School*March 18, 2024
 - 10.6.3.3. Kelly Mills, from Lunch Monitor, per diem to Cafeteria Worker, part time, school year only, Thomaston High School*April 8, 2024
 - 10.6.4. Resignations
 - 10.6.4.1. Laura Brochu, Grade 6 Teacher, Thomaston Center School*March 1, 2024
 - 10.6.4.2. Marissa Bartoli, Special Education Teacher, Thomaston Center School*March 28, 2024
 - 10.6.4.3. Amanda Behuniak, Family and Consumer Science Teacher, Thomaston High School*June 12, 2024
 - 10.6.4.4. Kieran Glynn, Math Teacher, Thomaston High School*June 12, 2024
 - 10.6.4.5. Sharon Taylor-DiFederico, Preschool Teacher, Black Rock School*June 12, 2024
 - 10.6.5. Retirements
 - 10.6.5.1. Debbie Green, Paraprofessional, Thomaston Center School*March 1, 2025
 - 10.6.6. Terminations
 - 10.6.6.1. Joyce Norton, Cafeteria Worker, Black Rock School*February 23, 2024
 - 10.6.7. Non-Renewals - Pursuant to Connecticut General Statute Section 10-151, the Thomaston Board of Education directs the Superintendent of Schools to take any and all actions related to the non-renewal process

Vote to direct the Superintendent of Schools, pursuant to Connecticut General Statute Section 10-151, to take any and all actions related to the non-renewal process, specifically, but not limited to communicating such actions to the Board of Education and authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to respond on behalf of the Board of Education to any recommendations for non-renewal and/or requests for hearings, if required by law, or for other data which may be forthcoming from a teacher and/or his/her representative pursuant to applicable provisions of Connecticut General Statute Section 10-151; and further move that the Superintendent of Schools be directed that any response to a request for a hearing, if a hearing is required by law, indicate that such hearing is to be before the Board of Education.

- 10.6.8. Stipends - 2023-2024
 - 10.6.8.1. Mark Beaudoin - Baseball Varsity Coach
 - 10.6.8.2. Brandon Cousins - Tennis Boys Varsity Coach
 - 10.6.8.3. Erin Fainer - Softball Middle School Coach
 - 10.6.8.4. Kelly Finlay - Softball Varsity Coach
 - 10.6.8.5. Megan Fitzgerald - Tennis Girls Varsity Coach
 - 10.6.8.6. Rich Kelly - Baseball Middle School Coach
 - 10.6.8.7. Eric Kociszewski - Track & Field Junior Varsity Coach
 - 10.6.8.8. Brandon Lynn - Fishing Club Advisor - Thomaston High School
 - 10.6.8.9. Brandon Lynn - Technical Director - Thomaston High School
 - 10.6.8.10. Kayla Marble - Track & Field Middle School Coach
 - 10.6.8.11. Shana Marques - Assistant Drama Coach - Thomaston High School
 - 10.6.8.12. Owen McGowan - Music Director - Thomaston High School
 - 10.6.8.13. Mark Olsen - Track & Field Varsity Coach
 - 10.6.8.14. Breanna Riollano - Drama Coach - Thomaston High School
 - 10.6.8.15. Sean Walmsley - Softball Junior Varsity Coach
 - 10.6.8.16. Michael Watson - Baseball Junior Varsity Coach

Vote 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.

- 10.6.9. Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) - None
(Policy 4152.6/4252.6 – Personnel – Certified/Non-Certified Personal Leaves Family and Medical Leave Act)
- 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. [Six Flags, Agawam, Massachusetts - Class of 2025 - June 7, 2024](#)

Vote to accept/approve the Class of 2025 Field Trip to Six Flags in Massachusetts on June 7, 2024

10.7.2. [New England Aquarium and Quincy Market in Boston - Class of 2026 - May 23, 2024](#)

Vote to accept/approve the Class of 2026 Field Trip to New England Aquarium and Quincy Market in Boston on May 23, 2024

- 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 – March 6, 2024](#)
 - 11.1.1. [February 2024 Business Manager's Report](#)
 - 11.1.1.1. Expenditures for the Month: \$1,244,066.55
- 11.2. [Budget Audit Committee – April 3, 2024](#)
 - 11.2.1. [March 2024 Business Manager's Report](#)
 - 11.2.1.1. Transfers

Vote to accept/approve the transfers as presented in the April 2024 Business Manager's Report.

- 11.2.1.2. Expenditures for the Month: \$1,129,118.80

Vote 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 February 2024 and March 2024.

11.2.1.3. Healthy Food Certification Statement - Thomaston Public Schools

Vote to accept/approve Resolution 1: Healthy Food Option, specifically: Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Thomaston Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

Vote to accept/approve Resolution 2: Combined Food and Beverage Exemptions, specifically: The Thomaston Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales.

11.3. [Policy Committee](#)

(Policy 2231-Administration/Policy and Regulation Systems)

Vote to accept/approve Policy 9122 - Office of the Vice Chairperson as presented.

Vote to accept/approve Policy 9221 - Filling Vacancies as presented.

12. Adjournment

Vote to adjourn.