

Minutes
THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting
Thomaston Town Hall – Meeting Room One
Monday, May 11, 2015
8:00 p.m.

Members:

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| • Roxy Fainer, Chairperson | • Carol Pettinicchi |
| • Kathleen Freimuth, Vice Chairperson | • Rebecca Guay |
| • Anne Petrucci, Secretary | • Jennifer McDonald |
| • Alexander Lee, Treasurer | • Maureen McMahan |
| • Beth Campbell | • Justin Gallo, Student Representative |
| • Megan Foell, Student Representative | • Francine Coss, Superintendent |

Minutes

Members Present: Roxy Fainer, Kathleen Freimuth, Anne Petrucci, Beth Campbell, Carol Pettinicchi, Rebecca Guay, Jennifer McDonald, Maureen McMahan, and Francine Coss

Members Absent: Alexander Lee

Staff Present: Aimee Turner, Director of Pupil-Personnel Services, John Perrucci, Thomaston High School

Public Present: Brian Sousa and Family, Megan Foell and Family, Ryan Jose and Family, Shay Murphy and Family and others who did not sign in.

I. Establishment of a Quorum and Call to Order:

Roxy Fainer established a quorum and called to order the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education at 8:00 P.M.

II. Pledge of Allegiance:

Roxy Fainer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Kathleen Freimuth **MOVED** and Anne Petrucci **SECONDED** to accept/approve the agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED 8-0-0

III. Approval of Minutes:

Anne Petrucci **MOVED** and Kathleen Freimuth **SECONDED** to accept/approve the Regular Meeting minutes dated April 13, 2015 as presented.

MOTION CARRIED 8-0-0

Anne Petrucci **MOVED** and Kathleen Freimuth **SECONDED** to accept/approve the Budget Committee meeting minutes dated April 13, 2015 as presented.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0-0

Anne Petrucci **MOVED** and Kathleen Freimuth **SECONDED** to accept/approve the Policy Committee meeting minutes dated April 13, 2015 as presented.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0-0

IV. Student Representatives:

Student Representatives **Megan Foell** and **Justin Gallo** reported on the following topics

- *Academics:*
 - o Students have begun to prepare for SBAC and NWEA tests.
 - o National Honor Society induction took place on April 21, 2015.
 - o Recent Advanced Placement testing motivated students to work hard at earning their college credits.
 - o Academic Honors Night will be held on June 2, 2015.
- *Clubs:*
 - o Interact Club is busy planning for the THS Talent Show which will take place on June 4, 2015
 - o Student Council is currently collecting prize baskets and planning the Mr. THS Pageant which will take place on May 29, 2015
 - o Sage Club has fundraising for their future endeavors by selling homemade hand scrubs and soap.
- *Athletics:*
 - o Athletic Teams have been working hard to do their best for Berkshire League and State's.
 - o The Track team will be competing in the Berkshire League Championships at Litchfield High School on May 16, 2015.
 - o Over the next few weeks other team's will be participating in their Berkshire League Tournaments.
 - o The Girls Softball Team is currently undefeated.
- *Special Events:*
 - o The Glow-in-the-Dark Ultimate Frisbee tournament held at the High School on May 8, 2015 was a great success. The event generated revenue for National Honor Society and was a good time for all who attended.

Kathleen Freimuth **MOVED** and Rebecca Guay **SECONDED** to accept/approve the May 11, 2015 Student Representative Report as presented.

MOTION CARRIED 8-0-0

V. Recognitions:

Roxy Fainer recognized Brian Sousa for his accomplishments and recent recognition as the May Rotary Student of the Month and presented him with a small token of appreciation.

Roxy Fainer recognized, Megan Foell, Ryan Jose and Shay Murphy for their accomplishments and recent Student Leadership recognition by Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE). The student's also were presented with a CABE Leadership Certificate and a small token of appreciation from the Board of Education.

Connor Dunn not present

VI. Superintendent's Report:

- A. Roof Inspection Reports
- B. Waterbury Arts Magnet School (WAMS) Lottery
- C. Third Marking Period Honor Roll
- D. Worhunsky Transportation Letter
- E. CABE Employee Relations Workshop
- F. Enrollment
- G. Administrator's Reports

H. 2015-2016 Professional Development and Evaluation Plan

Francine Coss asked the Board of Education consider taking action on the 2015-2016 Professional Development and Evaluation Plan.

Kathleen Freimuth **MOVED** and Jennifer McDonald **SECONDED** to accept/approve the 2015-2016 Professional Development and Evaluation Plan as revised by Professional Development and Evaluation Committee (PDEC)

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0-0

Discussion:

Roxy Fainer asked who would be repairing the leaks at the High School. **Francine Coss** explained that if it is determined that the leaks were caused by the contractor then the contractor would be responsible, but otherwise it would be a District expense.

Francine Coss explained the contents of the letter from Worhunsky Transportation Company's Attorney letter relayed that the sale of the company had not taken place yet. **Anne Petrucci** asked if there had been any interruption in transportation service as a result. **Francine Coss** explained that there had not been any interruption.

Francine Coss commented that Board Members will receive the answer to their questions related to the PTO Pack Meeting comments related to SBAC in their Newsletter this week.

I. Personnel

a. New Hires/Transfers/Resignations:

- *Diane Aniki, Nurse Coordinator, District, effective 2015/2016 School Year*
- *George Newsome, Hazardous Material/Asbestos Coordinator, District, effective 2015/2016 School Year*
- *Cindy Sabalcik, Grade 1 Teacher, Black Rock School, voluntary transfer effective 2015/2016 School Year*
- *Andrea Burnell, Extended School Year (ESY)Teacher, Black Rock School, effective July 6, 2015 through July 30, 2015*
- *Penelope Fox, Extended School Year (ESY)Paraprofessional, Black Rock School, effective July 6, 2015 through July 30, 2015*
- *Amanda Serenson, Extended School Year (ESY)Teacher, Black Rock School, effective July 6, 2015 through July 30, 2015*
- *Chantal Grenier, Paraprofessional, Black Rock School, resignation effective May 22, 2015*
- *Jennifer Ewart, Athletic Director, District, resignation effective June 30, 2015*

Anne Petrucci **MOVED** and Kathleen Freimuth **SECONDED** to accept/approve New Hires, Transfers, and Resignations as presented.

MOTION CARRIED 8-0-0

Discussion:

Roxy Fainer asked about Andrea Burnell's appointment and its relation to her layoff. **Francine Coss** explained that this position is a summer school position not a permanent position.

b. Curriculum Writer Assignments:

- *Diana Jonas, Math Curriculum Writer, Grade 1*
- *Jean Nolte, Math Curriculum Writer, Grade 4*
- *Mark Olsen, Math Curriculum Writer, Grade 9*
- *Christopher McMullen, Forensics Curriculum Writer, High School*

Francine Coss explained that the stipend amount for the Curriculum Writer positions was calculated based on the number of hours that it should take to write the curriculum at BA1 rate of pay. Additionally, she explained the process and timeline for the writing of the curriculum.

Carol Pettinicchi asked what grade levels the Forensics course would it be available to. **John Perrucci** responded that Forensics would be an elective class primarily for 11th and 12th graders.

Beth Campbell asked how the candidates for the curriculum writing positions had been chosen. **Francine Coss** explained that the positions were posted internally for interested Certified Staff to apply and that Alisha DiCorpo, Director of Curriculum and Assessment was reviewing the applications.

Kathleen Freimuth **MOVED** and Carol Pettinicchi **SECONDED** to accept/approve Curriculum Writers as presented.

MOTION CARRIED 8-0-0

VII. Committee Reports:

A. Budget Audit Committee Reports:

1. Reports:

a. Business Report

- *Special Education Tuition Rates*
- *Naugatuck Valley Community College Contract*
- *Effective School Solutions Contract 2015-2016*
- *IDEA Special Education and PreSchool Education Grant*
- *Special Education Excess Cost Reimbursement Rate 2014-2015*
- *Responses to Board of Finance Budget Questions*

Discussion:

Francine Coss explained that sample Special Education rates had been discussed during the April meeting and that this month Aimee Turner, Director of Pupil-Personnel Services has provided proposed rates. It would be helpful to have Special Education Rates available and approved for the start of the Alternative School Program. Additionally, she asked the Board to consider taking action on the Special Education rates if not at this meeting then in the next month.

Francine Coss explained the need to take action regarding the Superintendent signing of the Naugatuck Valley Community College and the Effective School Solutions contracts prior to the passing of the 2015/2016 Budget.

Francine Coss explained the Special Education Excess Cost Rate for 2014/2015 school year. Specifically, she explained the reasoning for the 80% reimbursement rate for the 2014/2015 school year.

Francine Coss explained that responses to the Board of Finance Budget questions regarding the 2015/2016 school year were answered within the Excel Budget spreadsheet and submitted to the Board of Finance for review. Additionally, she encouraged Board Members to review the document.

b. Finance Report:

- *2014 - 2015 Financials*
- *2014-2015 Budget Projection*
- *Grant Report*
- *Transfers*

2. Action Items:

a. Business and Finance Report

Kathleen Freimuth **MOVED** and Jennifer McDonald **SECONDED** to accept/approved Monthly Business and Financial Report, Expenditures, and Transfers as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0-0

Kathleen Freimuth **MOVED** and Beth Campbell **SECONDED** to allow the Superintendent to sign contracts for Naugatuck Valley Community College and Effective School Solutions prior to budget being passed.

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0-0

Discussion:

Board of Education Members had discussion regarding the signing of the Naugatuck Valley Community College and Effective School Solutions contracts prior the approval of the 2015/2016 school year Budget. Specifically, regarding what the ramifications would be if there were cuts to the proposed Budget. **Francine Coss** explained that if the contracts were signed that the District would be obligated to follow through with their commitment. Additionally, she indicated that any cuts to the proposed 2015/2016 school year Budget would be in other areas of the Budget and these programs would not be affected.

Beth Campbell asked if the District received reimbursed for Magnet School Transportation. **Francine Coss** explained that the District does receive partial reimbursement and that there is also a Grant for transportation.

Rebecca Guay asked how many students are interested in Naugatuck Valley programs. **Francine Coss** explained that a survey was conducted and approximately 40 students expressed interest in the programs. She assured the Board that they wouldn't commit to a contract unless there was enough student interest.

Maureen McMahon asked what courses would be offered through the program. **Francine Coss** responded that initially they would be offering courses for Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) and Emergency Medical Responder (EMS).

Kathleen Freimuth **MOVED** and Beth Campbell **SECONDED** to approve Special Education rates for the 2015-2016 school year.

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0-0

Discussion

Francine Coss explained the breakdown of the Special Education rates and how we would utilize the rates.

B. Policy Committee:

1. Presentation:

- *Kristin Raymond, Policy 6146 – Graduation Requirements*

2. Read Items:

- *Policy Audit Series 2000 - Second Read*

Anne Petrucci provided a recap of the Policy Committee Meeting. Additionally, she explained that the Policy Audit Series 2000 would progress to an action item for the June 8, 2015 Board of Education Meeting.

Public Participation:

There was no public participation.

Adjournment:

Kathleen Freimuth **MOVED** and Anne Petrucci **SECONDED** to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education at 8:53 P.M.

MOTION CARRIED 8-0-0

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