

Minutes
THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting

Thomaston Town Hall – Meeting Room One
Date: Monday, October 15, 2012
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, Alexander Lee, Roxy Fainer, Holly Herbert, Becky Guay, Anne Petrucci, Joanne Gilland, Kathleen Freimuth, and Debra Schriver

Absent: Joanne Gilland

Also Present: Business Manager, Nancy O'Dea-Wyrick; High School Administrators, John Perrucci and Jonathan Kozlak; Black Rock School Administrator, Alisha DiCorpo; Center School Administrator, Anne Uberti; Pupil Services Director, Nancy Schnyer; Student Board Representative, Sarah Guay; and Board Clerk, Patricia George

I. Establishment of a quorum and call to order:

Board Chair Lucy Santopietro established a quorum and called to order the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education at 7:00 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance:

Lucy Santopietro led the pledge of allegiance

III. Approval of Agenda:

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

IV. Approval of Minutes:

On a motion made by Holly Herbert and seconded by Anne Petrucci to accept/approve the Board of Education minutes for the Regular meeting dated Monday, September 10, 2012; no further discussion; Kathleen Freimuth abstained; motion carried unanimously.

V. Student Representative Reports:

The Board welcomed Sarah Guay and Phil Sechow as the new student representatives to the Board. Sarah was in attendance and reported on several activities at the high school including a Cross Country Pasta Dinner, Picture Day and Homecoming.

VI. Incredible Classroom/Recognitions:

- A. "Students in the News"
Ms. Dayton, a faculty member and the Communications Advisor at the high school, along with several students, did a mock morning announcement routine for the Board members.
- B. Thomaston Youth Advisory Council
The Thomaston Youth Advisory Council, also referred to as TYAC, is a group of local professionals comprised of Juvenile Court Officials, Police, School Officials, Social Workers, Clergy and Community members. As explained by Officer Sue Graham, TYAC is a diversionary program that is designed to prevent juveniles who have committed criminal offenses (under 18), minor criminal charges and first time offenses from going to Juvenile Court. Chief Campbell added the committee is used as an interaction/intervention vehicle for families and youth with hopes of solving any problems with repeat offenders. Board member Kathleen Freimuth, who also sits on TYAC, provided a Power Point presentation on key topics including, what is TYAC, to whom it's available for referral, alternatives available to TYAC, who can be referred, possible diversions, the referral process, its benefits, and agencies supporting the group.

VII. Communications:

- A. New Hires/Replacements: n/a
- B. Resignations/Retirements/Exit Interviews:

On a motion made by Roxy Fainer and seconded by Debra Schriver to accept/approve the resignation as presented,

Further discussion

In the absence of Superintendent Mitchell, Anne Uberti, Principal at Center School, explained the reason for Mr. Stack's resignation was his interest in the volunteering aspect. Mr. Stack preferred to work in the school library but as a paraprofessional he was utilized where he was most needed, and not necessarily in the library. He plans to remain on as a volunteer in the school library and is currently working on the book fair.

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Athletics:

Mr. Jack Pasquella was on hand and addressed the Board as a member of the Field Repair and Restoration Committee. Through the generous donations of the Thomaston Rotary Club, The Thomaston Savings Bank, the Booster Club, and monies collected from the fundraising efforts of Brian Fairchild and a cocktail party which was held at Black Rock Tavern, the committee was able to hire a local landscape contractor to address the needs of the field. Volunteers also made themselves available to cut out a path around the perimeter of the field with hopes of cutting down on maintenance.

The committee has raised and spent \$30,000 to date and have three more significant initiatives to undertake which include "tuning up" the field for the start of the season, ordering a new scoreboard and creating a roof complex with a bench for both diamonds.

Mr. Pasquella continued by providing the Board with a mock up design and other specifics regarding the scoreboard. Monies were obtained through a grant by the Thomaston Savings Bank to purchase the scoreboard itself, money to cover the cost of installation would have to be raised separately. Because the scoreboard would incorporate signage, Mr. Pasquella thought it would be important that the Board be apprised.

In conclusion, Mr. Pasquella wanted to insure that the Board be responsible for and continue with fertilizing the field. It was his understanding that the process be done annually and approximately 4 applications to keep it in good condition. Mr. Perrucci explained that the process is done bi-annually. The Chair indicated that they would look into whether or not the budget could support Mr. Pasquella's request of 4 annual applications.

A question arose as to whether or not a vote should be taken to accept the scoreboard donation. Initially, Board Chair Lucy Santopietro didn't feel it was necessary but indicated that she would investigate the process and if necessary, the donation would be placed as an item on the next agenda as a vote to accept/approve.

D. Transfers: n/a

E. Leaves of Absence: n/a

F. Field Trips: n/a

G. Correspondence:

1. Fire Inspections

Ms. O'Dea-Wyrick indicated that she had met with the Fire Marshal and that there are several items still outstanding and in process.

VIII. Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Mitchell was absent from the meeting. No report.

IX. Business Manager's Report:

Ms. O'Dea-Wyrick added the following information to her written report:

On the subject of transportation, she noted that the district is working with Plymouth and Wolcott to put together a common piece on bussing. The target is to put a bid out on the 23rd of this month and to have a contract available to present to the Board at the December Board meeting for Regular and Special Education.

She also mentioned that the consolidated grant was mailed out earlier in the day and that the key fobs were not functioning properly at some doors due to the aging of the locks.

With regards to the budget, Alexander Lee inquired why some of the budget lines indicated overages by thousands this early on in the school year. Ms. O'Dea-Wyrick explained that she is going through each item and will be sitting with the new accounts payable clerk to make the necessary corrections. She assured the Board members that there are no exposures or concerns at this time.

X. Administrators' Reports:

A. Black Rock School, Alisha DiCorpo/Thomaston Center School, Anne Uberti

Principals Ms. DiCorpo and Ms. Uberti did not have anything to add to their written report.

B. Thomaston High School, John Perrucci

Principal Perrucci added that Bently Systems Incorporated has followed through and offered many items for donation to the high school including a Smart Board, several office dividers and desks, as well as conference tables. He is hopeful to receive additional smart boards, computer tables and chairs in the future.

Mr. Perrucci was asked by the Board to generate a list of what was donated so that the Board can accept and approve the donation at their November Board meeting.

Additionally it was noted that the high school is currently replacing a water heater which had corroded and sprung a leak. A leak in a second water heater was found, although small, it can not be repaired and will need to be addressed.

C. Pupil Services, Nancy Schnyer

Ms. Schnyer had no further comments to make to her written report.

XI. Standing Committee Reports:

A. Budget:

On a motion made by Holly Herbert and seconded by Kathleen Freimuth to accept/approve the Summary by Budget Line Expenditures in the amount of \$2,924,574 as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

B. Curriculum/Instruction:

The Superintendent had planned to report on Items 1 and 2, Curriculum Council Update and Common Core-Education Connection respectively but was absent from the meeting.

Item 3

Copies of the curricula, which were developed over the summer, were distributed to BoE members and the Superintendent for review and ratification. The curriculum included:

Math: Algebra, Geometry, Advanced Functions in Trig, Advanced Math 8, AP Statistics

Language Arts: English 12

Health

World Language

History: Modern World and World Backgrounds

Science: Principles of Engineering (7 and 8), AP Chemistry

Business Education: Intro to Tech, Desktop Pub I and II, Personal Finance, Computers 7

On a motion made by Debra Schriver and seconded by Alexander Lee to accept/approve the high school curriculum as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

C. Maintenance/Facilities:

1. Energy Savings Performance Contract Update

Ms. O'Dea-Wyrick, who sits on the ESPC Committee, provided the Board with an update to the project stating that, "it continues to chug along, the target completion date for all of the installs is the last of December". The committee meets every two weeks, addressing any issues that come up.

D. Technology:

1. District Technology Committee (Deb Sanford)

Debra Sanford was pleased to tell the Board that the new Websites went "live" that day and that teachers are continuing to work on their individual sites.

2. Board of Finance Meeting – November 13, 2012

No report

E. Personnel: n/a

F. Transportation: n/a

G. Athletics: n/a

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

I. Policy:

1. Update: Nancy O'Dea-Wyrick

Ms. O'Dea-Wyrick explained to the Board that the Policy committee did try to meet but due to miscommunication, some members were available and some were not. However, they did manage to compile a draft of the cell phone policy and will meet prior to the next Board meeting to determine whether or not they can bring it forward.

J. Government Relations: n/a

K. Affiliations: n/a

L. Legislation:

1. Special Education: Recent Legislation Impact

Nancy Schnyer, under the directive of Superintendent Mitchell, provided a summary of legislation as it pertained to special education.

XII. Public Participation:

John Perrucci
Bayberry Drive

Mr. Perrucci made an inquiry relating to communication with the Board and how the members could be contacted.

Christine Yoos
South Main Street

Ms. Yoos recalled a discussion regarding selling the oil back and also utilizing propane as an alternate method.

Heidi Madow
129 D. Welton Way

Ms. Madow asked if the Board would entertain a policy regarding students bringing their own Ipads to school.

XIII. Old Business:

- A. Board self-evaluation

Board Chair Lucy Santopietro felt that the Board members could complete the self-evaluation individually and return their feedback to her in two weeks for review.

XIV. New Business:

- A. Policy Update
- B. Donations

XV. Items for Future Agendas:

XVI. Executive Session: (anticipated)

On a motion made by Anne Petrucci and seconded by Kathleen Freimuth to enter into Executive Session at 8:33 p.m. for the purpose of Collective Bargaining Strategy and Negotiations. The Board invited the following people into Executive Session:

Business Manager, Nancy O'Dea-Wyrick

No further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

Public Session

A motion was made by Debra Schriver and seconded by Kathleen Freimuth to enter into Public Session at 8:58 p.m.; no further discussion; motion carried.

Board Motion

The Board moved to accept the Professional Agreement between the Thomaston Education Association and the Thomaston Board of Education as presented for the period of July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2016; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously (8-0).

XVII. Adjournment:

A motion was made by Roxy Fainer and seconded by Kathleen Freimuth to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education dated Monday, October 15, 2012; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.