
MINUTES
THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
Lena Morton Room
Wednesday, February 24, 2016
6:00 p.m.

Members:

Roxy Fainer, Chairperson
Kathleen Freimuth, Vice Chairperson
Anne Petrucci, Secretary
Alexander Lee, Treasurer
Francine Coss, Superintendent

Beth Campbell
David Colavecchio
Maureen McMahon
Scott Theriault
Frank Treglia

Student Representatives:

Kathleen Brody

Justin Gallo

1. Establishment of a Quorum and Call to Order

- 1.1 Chairperson **Roxy Fainer** called the meeting to order at 6:06 P.M.
- 1.2 Board members in attendance: **Roxy Fainer, Kathleen Freimuth, Anne Petrucci, Alexander Lee, Superintendent Francine Coss, David Colavecchio, Maureen McMahon, Scott Theriault, Student Representatives Kathleen Brody and Justin Gallo**
- 1.3 Members Absent: **Beth Campbell**
- 1.4 Administrators in Attendance: Kristin Bernier, Thomaston Center School Principal, Alisha DiCorpo, Director of Curriculum, Jonathan Kozlak, Black Rock School Principal, John Perrucci, Thomaston High School Principal and Aimee Turner, Director of Pupil Services.
- 1.5 Others in Attendance: Kelly Dube, Theresa Gambino, Susan Root Cindi Scheppard, and Christine Thomas.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Agenda

- 3.1 Special Meeting Agenda February 24, 2016
Vote to accept/approve, Special Meeting Agenda, February 24, 2016

Kathleen Freimuth moved and **Anne Petrucci seconded** to accept the Special Meeting Agenda as presented.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried

Yes	No	Abstain
8	0	0

4. Approval of Minutes:

4.1 Special Meeting dated January 25, 2015

Vote to accept/approve Special Meeting Minutes dated January 25, 2015 as presented

Anne Petrucci moved and Kathleen Freimuth seconded to accept the Special Meeting Minutes dated January 25, 2016 not 2015.

Discussion: Chairperson Roxy Fainer stated to be clear that although the agenda says 2015, the Board realizes that the Board is approving the minutes for 2016.

Vote: Motion carried

Yes	No	Abstain
8	0	0

4.2 Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes dated January 11, 2015

Vote to accept/approve Regular Meeting Minutes dated January 11, 2015 as presented

Anne Petrucci moved and Kathleen Freimuth seconded to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes dated January 11, 2016 not 2015.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried

Yes	No	Abstain
8	0	0

4.3 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes dated January 11, 2015

Vote to accept/approve Budget Committee Minutes dated January 11, 2015 as presented

Anne Petrucci moved and Kathleen Freimuth seconded to accept the Budget Committee Meeting Minutes dated January 11, 2016 not 2015.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried

Yes	No	Abstain
8	0	0

4.4 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes dated January 11, 2015

Vote to accept/approve Policy Committee Minutes dated January 11, 2015 as presented

Anne Petrucci moved and **Kathleen Freimuth seconded** to accept the Policy Committee Meeting Minutes dated January 11, 2016 not 2015.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried

Yes	No	Abstain
8	0	0

5. Recognitions

- 5.1 Rotary Student of the Month – Mikaylyn Peet (To be presented at the Regular Meeting in March)

6. Student Representatives' Report

7. Presentation

- 7.1 Certification of Recognition to Black Rock Preschool Program Staff

8. Chairperson's Report

8.1 Board of Education Correspondence

- 8.1.1 *Donation of Trombone to Thomaston Center School*
8.1.2 *Letter to Deborah Ferris regarding transfer to position of Cafeteria Worker*
8.1.3 *WAMS Steering Committee*

Chairperson Roxy Fainer explained that Superintendent Coss and Roxy Fainer had received an email informing them that their attendance was mandatorily required to attend the Waterbury Arts Magnet School/WAMS Steering Committee Meeting in January. Roxy Fainer and Superintendent Coss will be attending the March meeting as well and will keep the Board up to date. WAMS had promised that they would send a new agreement to sign. As per the WAMS bi-laws a new agreement should be presented every couple years to the districts and that has not happened since 2002. At the time of the Thomaston Board of Education meeting, the agreement had not been received. Superintendent Coss is hopeful that WAMS will have the document for the March meeting. At that time a decision will be made whether the Board continues to go further with the relationship or be less formal with the relationship.

9. Superintendent's Report

- 9.1 Free Vision Screening at Black Rock School
9.2 Education Connection District Data Report for 2014-2015
9.3 WAMS January Newsletter
9.4 WAMS February Newsletter
9.5 2016-2017 District Calendar

The 2016-2017 District Calendar has been updated. The Board does not need to take action due to the fact that it is a Scriveners error.

- 9.6 Administrator Reports
9.7 Enrollment Report
9.8 Food Service Handbook

This handbook was designed to guide the food service staff since they are not represented by any unions and do not have a contract or a rule book to follow. The handbook has not yet been distributed to the staff.

9.9 Personnel

- 9.9.1 Karen Kociszewski, New Hire, School Nurse, Thomaston High School, January 26, 2016
- 9.9.2 Kerri Robie, Resignation, Benefits Administrator, Central Office, February 3, 2016
- 9.9.3 Preston Soeprasetyo, Odysseyware Tutor, Thomaston High School, February 2, 2016
- 9.9.4 Hope Barone, Resignation, Cafeteria Manager, Thomaston High School, February 15, 2016
- 9.9.5 Jen Ewart, Grade 11 Advisor, Thomaston High School, September, 2015

Vote to accept/approve New Hires/Transfers/Resignation/Retirements

Kathleen Freimuth moved and Anne Petrucci seconded to accept/ approve New Hires/Transfer/Resignation/Retirements as presented.

Discussion: Alexander Lee asked if the date for Jen Ewart’s position was supposed to be back dated.

Superintendent Coss explained that the paperwork was not sent to Central Office at that time, but the person has been doing the job since the beginning of the year.

Vote: Motion carried

Yes	No	Abstain
8	0	0

- 9.9.6 Terry Waldron Varsity Cheerleading Coach, Thomaston, High School
- 9.9.7 Kelly Finlay Freshman Girl’s Basketball Coach, Thomaston High School
- 9.9.8 Marcus Edgren, Middle School Boys Basketball, Thomaston High School

Vote to accept/approve Coaching Positions

Kathleen Freimuth moved and Anne Petrucci seconded to accept/ approve New Hires/Transfer/Resignation/Retirements as presented.

Discussion: Scott Theriault asked if the season is over for those coaches being presented for approval.

Superintendent Coss explained that these coaches were missing information so they were not able to get the Board approval at the last board meeting or they were not offered the position until after the last board meeting. Superintendent Coss also explained that the coaches are able to coach without the proper paperwork with the supervision of an Athletic Director or one of the Administrators.

Vote: Motion carried

Yes	No	Abstain
8	0	0

9.10 Final 2016/2017 Budget Proposal

This budget reflects a difference of \$89.00 (less) from the budget presented during the January 25, 2016 Special Meeting. This budget reflects a 50% reimbursement level for special education excess cost revenue.

Discussion: David Colavecchio firmly suggested that the special education excess cost revenue reimbursement level be increased to 60%.

Superintendent Coss would like Board of Education unbudgeted expenditures to be addressed in a similar way to the unbudgeted expenditures in other town departments. Other town departments request additional funds from the Board of Finance for unbudgeted expenditures. Currently, when the Board of Education has attempted to follow the process followed by other town department, there has been no formal support. To be sure the Board does not overspend its budget after an unbudgeted expenditure, a spending freeze is put in place. Minimally, support for a 1% rollover account would be helpful.

David Colavecchio said that that needs to be lobbied and debate outside of a budget season.

Chairperson Roxy Fainer mentioned that the Board of Education has presented the 1% account plan to the Board of Finance before, outside of budget season.

David Colavecchio replied with the recommendation of 55 percent.

Superintendent Coss said that we can do 60% but 70% is too high.

Chairperson Roxy Fainer stated that she has a problem with 60% due to the State of Connecticut's budget.

Aimee Turner (Director of Pupil Services) interjected from the audience that there was a shift of expenditures in which Thomaston Public Schools were going to get one and a half percent back to somebody that is going to be four and a half times the expenditures. So if the Board is going to make a 50%, 60%, 70% decision the Board needs to know the expectations. Because this is like a \$40,000.00 difference between expected and excess cost. The cost will be the same but the Board will not be getting any reimbursement back.

Superintendent Coss stated, Because things are always fluid and changing especially in the area of special education if we have a change after the Board approves the budget, it is not going to be reflected in this budget. We may discuss it but it will not be reflected in the budget.

David Colavecchio suggested 57.5%.

Alexander Lee stated the Board should stay at 50% as what the Board feels is necessary to work.

Frank Treglia suggested 55%.

Chairperson Roxy Fainer said that she too would be fine with 55%.

Dave Colavecchio stated that 55% is fine.

Superintendent Coss said the Board can incorporate into the budget what Aimee just described and we may have to go up to 55% to keep the bottom line the same.

Alexander Lee – Said we either need to support the 50% or not support the 50%. If the Board is okay with moving up to 55% and can justify why that is okay going up 5% and not because we want to get to 1.99%. Alexander is still leaning toward the 50% even after this discussion.

Superintendent Coss explained that the Board will continue to find these changes throughout this process that the Board won't be able to make after tonight. Unless the Board of Finance comes back and says that we need to cut the budget.

Aimee Turner (Director of Pupil Services) Commented that it is only going to be \$17,000.00.

Superintendent Coss said if it is only \$17,000.00 then at 55% would bring a \$10,000.00 savings overall.

Frank Treglia stated that there is a big difference between 1.99% and 2.0%.

Chairperson Roxy Fainer stated that the Board has to have the justification of why we are going to 55% now to cover the \$17,000.

Alexander Lee asked if increasing the level was like going backwards? The Board adding it, because of some extra costs, doesn't change the reimbursement amount.

Aimee Turner (Director of Pupil Services) apologized and said that it would be \$17,000 less reimbursement at 50%.

Alexander Lee stated that the Board estimated what the State will give back. If the Board increases it from 50% to 55% it not because the state is increasing but it because of our budget needs. This is not a good approach. The Board should base that 50% or 60% on what is expected from the state and base the budget on what we think the cost are.

Chairperson Roxy Fainer stated that she is comfortable with the 55%.

Alexander Lee repeated that the Board needs to justify the reimbursement rate.

Vote to accept/approve 2016/2017 Budget as presented

Scott Theriault moved Kathleen Freimuth seconded to amend the motion as presented to raise the reimbursement rate to 55%.

Chairperson Roxy Fainer asked if there were any further questions before the vote.

Alexander Lee asked about the lunch program change.

Todd Bendtsen (Business Manager) replied that there was an increase in the lunch aides to supervise the students in the cafeteria. The change is \$4000.00 at Center School and \$4000.00 at Black Rock School.

Superintendent Coss stated that what this would allow the paraprofessionals to eat their own lunch or be with a child which is their purpose.

David Colavecchio asked Mr. Perrucci (Thomaston High School's Principal) about the \$15,000.00 he budgeted for the Foreign Language Program.

John Perrucci (Thomaston High School's Principal) said that it was for the Foreign Language Program and for the PATHS Program.

David Colavecchio asked how many seats Mr. Perrucci is purchasing for the Foreign Language Program.

John Perrucci (Thomaston High School's Principal) stated that it is twenty (20) courses potentially.

Superintendent Coss explained that if twenty students want to take twenty different languages, Mr. Perrucci budgeted for the highest costing language so that any student could take any language.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried

Yes	No	Abstain
8	1	0
	Alexander Lee	

Scott Theriault moved and Alexander Lee seconded to further amend the amendment to include the out of district tuition cost as of February 24, 2016.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried

Yes	No	Abstain
8	0	0

Vote to accept/approve 2016/2017 Budget as amended.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried

Yes	No	Abstain
8	0	0

10. Public Participation:

The Board welcomes public participation in accordance with Thomaston Board of Education Policy 9325(a) – Bylaws of the Board Meeting Conduct. Specifically, provision for permitting any individual or group to address the Board concerning any subject that lies within its jurisdiction shall be as follows:

- Five minutes may be allotted to each speaker and a maximum of twenty minutes to each subject matter.
- No boisterous conduct shall be permitted at any Board of Education meeting. Persistence in boisterous conduct shall be grounds for summary termination, by the chair, of that person's privilege of address. If necessary, the Chairperson may clear the room so that Board members may continue the meeting.
- No oral presentation shall include charges or complaints against any employee of the Board of Education, regardless of whether or not the employee is identified in the presentation by name or by another reference that tends to identify an individual. All charges or complaints against employees shall be submitted to the Board of Education under provision of Board of Education policy.

The Thomaston Board of Education is confident you will observe the rules of common courtesy. Thank you.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 P.M.