



MINUTES
THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
Thomaston High School Auditorium
Monday, December 9, 2019
7:00 p.m.

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.

Members:

Beth Campbell, Chairperson
David Colavecchio, Vice Chairperson
Heather Patchell, Secretary
Roxy Fainer, Treasurer
Francine Coss, Superintendent

Salvatore SantaMaria
Frank Treglia
Jennifer Nolan
Matthew VanOrmer
Sarah Ethier

Student Representatives 2019-2020

Jacob Field
Isabella Guerrero
McKenna O'Sullivan

1. **Establishment of a Quorum and Call to Order** (*Bylaws of the Board 9325.1 – Quorum*)
 - 1.1 **Chairperson Beth Campbell** called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
 - 1.2 **Board Members in Attendance: Chairperson Beth Campbell, Vice Chairperson David Colavecchio, Secretary Heather Patchell, Treasurer Roxy Fainer, Superintendent Francine Coss, Frank Treglia, Matt VanOrmer**
 - 1.3 **Board Members Absent: Jennifer Nolan, Salvatore SantaMaria**
 - 1.4 **Student Representatives in Attendance: Jacob Field, Isabella Guerrero, McKenna O'Sullivan**
 - 1.5 **Others in Attendance: Kristin Bernier, Eric Martin, John Perrucci, Kristin Raymond, Andrea Peters, Senator Henri Martin, Representative John Piscopo, Abigail Blasko, Erin Blasko, Abigail Sedgwick and family,, Attorney Christine Chinni, Attorney Craig Meuser, Owen Hawley, Megan Hawley, Scott Nelson, Elias Nelson, Christel Russman, Josh Russman, Kelly LaChance, George LaChance, Cathy Dupont, Lisa Rocco, Marie Eldridge, Leah LaChance, Velia Russman, Vincent Russman, Adrianna Rocco, Attorney Nicholas Grello, Attorney Sheila Mckay, Patrice**

McCarthy.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Agenda ▲ (Bylaws of the Board 9325.2 – Order of Business and Policy 1205 – Community Relations – Participation by the Public – Agenda Format/Preparation and Dissemination)

Heather Patchell moved and Roxy Fainer seconded to accept/approve the Board of Education Regular Meeting Agenda dated December 9, 2019 as presented.

Discussion: None

Motion Carried: 6-0-0

4. Public Participation ▲▲▲ (Bylaws of the Board 9325 – Meeting Conduct) None

The Board welcomes public participation in accordance with the Bylaws of the Board (summarized below):

- 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.
- No oral presentation shall include charges or complaints against any employee of the Board of Education.

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

5. Approval of Minutes ▲ (Bylaws of the Board 9326 – Minutes)

5.1. Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes dated November 18, 2019

5.2. Special Meeting Minutes dated November 20, 2019

Heather Patchell moved and Roxy Fainer seconded to accept/approve the Board of Education Meeting Minutes dated November 18, 2019 and November 20, 2019 as presented.

Discussion: None

Motion Carried: 6-0-0

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. Rotary Student of the Month - December 2019 - Alex Thornberg: The December 2019 Rotary Student of the Month was unable to attend this meeting; the video of his speech will be presented at the next Regular Board of Education meeting on January 13, 2020.

6.2. Thomaston Public Schools Student of the Month Recipients - December

- 6.3.1. Abigail Blasko - Grade 11
- 6.3.2. Leah LaChance - Grade 10
- 6.3.3. Dan Guerrero - Grade 9
- 6.3.4. Velia Russman - Grade 8
- 6.3.5. Vincent Russman - Grade 7
- 6.3.6. Abigail Sedgwick - Grade 6
- 6.3.7. Elias Nelson - Grade 5

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- 6.3.8. Aiden Delaney - Grade 4
 - 6.3.9. Adrianna Rocco - Grade 3
 - 6.3.10. Leila Manners - Grade 2
 - 6.3.11. Wynne Norck - Grade 1
 - 6.3.12. Owen Hawley - Grade K

7. **Presentations** ▲▲▲ (*Bylaws of the Board 9410 – Public Announcement of Accomplishments*)

7.1. Biennial Appointment of Board Attorney (Bylaws of the Board 9125 - Attorney)

7.1.1. Chinni and Meuser LLC- Attorney Craig Meuser, Presenter, Attorney Christine Chinni, Presenter

7.1.2. Zangari Cohn Cuthbertson Duhl & Grello P.C. - Attorney Nicholas Grello, Presenter

Roxy Fainer moved and David Colavecchio seconded to appoint the Board of Education Meeting Attorney from Zangari Cohn Cuthbertson Duhl & Grello P.C. for the next biennial period.

Discussion: **Superintendent Francine Coss** clarified the motion by stating that the board members were only voting on appointing an attorney specifically to represent the Board of Education.

Motion Carried: 6-0-0

7.2. CABE Annual Legislative Update, Attorney Sheila McKay, CABE Senior Staff Associate for Government Relations, Presenter

Discussion: **Superintendent Coss** informed Senator Henri Martin and Representative John Piscopo that the Thomaston Board of Education submitted a CABE resolution this year and it was passed by CABE.

7.3. Therapeutic Learning Center - Andrea Peters, Director of Pupil-Personnel Services, Presenter

Discussion: A board member asked about the transition of the TLC program students to Thomaston Center School in a few years; Ms. Peters stated that over the next few years, the staff of Thomaston Center School will be training in anticipation of this transition.

Another board member asked if the TLC program will not take tuition students from other districts; Ms. Peters replied that while it may be an option in the future, tuition students are not planned at this time.

Questions were raised regarding the cost of the new TLC program; Ms. Peters listed the cost of the program in her presentation and reiterated that the in-house TLC program is far less costly than the cost of outplacing students.

Ms. Peters also stated that Regular Education students will not be adversely affected by this program.

Superintendent Francine Coss stated the students expected to be enrolled in the TLC program currently receive paraprofessional services; these services will be eliminated and, as a result, the district will reduce the number of paraprofessional positions by four (4). Layoffs will not occur in the current 2019-2020 school year, however, if there are no vacancies through attrition for these displaced paraprofessionals in the 2020-2021 school year, these displaced paraprofessionals will be laid off in June 2020.

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8. **Student Representatives Report** ▲▲▲ (*Bylaws of the Board 9160 – Student Representation on the Board of Education*)
 9. **Chairperson's Report** ▲▲▲ (*Bylaws of the Board 9121 – Office of the Chairperson*)
 - 9.1. Formal Announcement of Board of Education Vacancy
 - 9.1.1. Bylaws of the Board 9221 - Filling Vacancies
 - 9.1.1.1. Resignation Letter to Thomaston Board of Education - Maureen McMahon
 - 9.1.1.2. Appointment of new Board of Education member to the unexpired term of recently resigned Board of Education member, Maureen McMahon.

Heather Patchell moved and Roxy Fainer seconded to accept/approve the appointment of Sarah Ethier to the unexpired term of recently resigned Board of Education member, Maureen McMahon.

Discussion: None

Motion carried: 6-0-0

- 9.1.1.3. Swearing in of the new Thomaston Board of Education member by Town Clerk: Catherine DuPont, Town Clerk, swore in Sarah Ethier to fill the position vacated by Maureen McMahon.
 - 9.1.1.4. Committee Sign Up - Bylaw 9132
 - 9.1.1.5. Ad-Hoc Negotiations Committee Sign Up

10. **Superintendent's Report** ▲▲▲ (*Policy 2131 – Administration – Superintendent of Schools*)
 - 10.1. Correspondence
 - 10.1.1. Superintendent
 - 10.1.1.1. Thank You Card from Douglas Craig (Staff Member) to Board of Education, Administration, and Superintendent
 - 10.1.1.2. Thank You Card from Debbie Green (Staff Member) to Board of Education, Administration, and Superintendent
 - 10.1.1.3. To Staff - News for Staff - November 2019
 - 10.1.1.4. From Effective School Solutions - Solutions Newsletter November 2019
 - 10.1.1.5. From Effective School Solutions - Insights Newsletter November 2019
 - 10.1.2. Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE)
 - 10.1.2.1. CABE Policy Highlights 11-15-2019
 - 10.1.2.2. CABE New Board Member and Leadership Conference
 - 10.1.3. Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS)
 - 10.1.3.1. Testimony on State Board of Education's Role in Supporting Local Boards of Education
 - 10.1.3.2. Annual Northwestern Connecticut Legislative Breakfast
 - 10.1.4. Connecticut State Department of Education

- 10.1.4.1. The Civil Right Compliance Review (No Site Visit)
- 10.1.4.2. New Resources to Support Development of Student Pathways and Programs Aligned to Connecticut's Workforce Needs
- 10.1.4.3. Student Recruitment for Choice Programs - December 2019
- 10.1.4.4. Educate CT Newsletter - November 2019
- 10.1.4.5. Guidance Related to Special Education Services and Section 504 Plans for Students at Interdistrict Magnet Schools
- 10.1.4.6. Guidance for Connecticut School Districts: Enrollment Process and Practice Request for Internet and Website Review
- 10.2. Reports, Contracts and General Information
 - 10.2.1. Reports
 - 10.2.1.1. Administrator Reports – December 2019
 - 10.2.1.2. Enrollment Report - December 1, 2019
 - 10.2.2. Contracts
 - 10.2.2.1. Chemical Hygiene Officer - MOA
 - 10.2.2.2. Snowplow Contract 2019-2020
 - 10.2.2.3. Effective School Solutions Contract
 - 10.2.3. General Information
 - 10.2.3.1. Fund-Raisers (Policy 1314/1324 - Community Relations Fund-Raising and Solicitation and Policy 3281 - Business/Non-Instructional Operations - School Fund-Raisers)
 - 10.2.3.1.1. Thomaston High School - Class of 2023 - Paint Night
 - 10.2.3.1.2. Thomaston High School - Student Council - Decades Dance
 - 10.2.4. Personnel (*Policy 4112/4212 – Personnel – Certified/Non-Certified Appointment and Conditions of Employment*)
 - 10.2.4.1. New Hires - None
 - 10.2.4.2. Transfers/New Assignments - None
 - 10.2.4.3. Retirements
 - 10.2.4.3.1. Shadia Hamzy - Thomaston Center School - Paraprofessional
 - 10.2.4.4. Resignations
 - 10.2.4.4.1. Abigail Zakorchevnoy - Middle School Cheerleading - Stipend
 - 10.2.4.4.2. Nicole Neilson - Thomaston High School Track - Stipend
 - 10.2.4.4.3. Amanda Serenson - Black Rock School - Special Education Teacher
 - 10.2.4.4.4. Sharon Collett - Black Rock School - Paraprofessional
 - 10.2.4.5. Renewals - None
 - 10.2.4.6. Stipends

First Name	Last Name	Location	Schedule K Position
Raymond	Rabuska	THS	Chemical Hygiene Officer

Terri	Franzi	THS	TEAM Mentor
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Roxy Fainer moved and Heather Patchell seconded to acknowledge the Superintendent's notification of Personnel, specifically, New Hire/Transfers /Retirements/Resignations/Renewals/Stipends per Policy 4112/4212 Personnel – Certified/ Non-Certified Appointment and Conditions of Employment as presented.

- 10.2.4.7. Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) (*Policy 4152.6/4252.6 – Personnel -- Certified/Non-Certified Personal Leaves Family and Medical Leave Act*) - None
- 10.2.4.8. Interns and Student Teachers (*Policy 1212 – Community Relations – School Volunteers*) - None
- 10.2.4.9. Field Trips (out of state) (*Policy 6153 - Instruction Field Trips - Secondary Schools*) - None

11. Committee Reports ▲ (Bylaws of the Board 9132 – Standing Committees)

11.1. Budget/Audit Committee (*Policy 3430 – Business/Non-Instructional Operations – Periodic Financial Reports*)

11.1.1. November 2019 Business Manager Report

11.1.1.1. 2018-19 Independent Accountant's Report for Local and Regional School Districts

11.1.1.2. Expenditures

11.1.1.2.1. November 2019 – 2019-2020 Fiscal Year: \$1,774,932.70

Roxy Fainer moved and Heather Patchell seconded to accept/approve the Business and Finance Report and Listed Expenditures per Policy 3432/ 3433 Business/Non-Instructional Operations - Budget & Expense Report as presented.

Discussion: Roxy Fainer requested an update on the strike price for oil. **Superintendent Francine Coss** stated that the price for oil at the time of the Budget/Audit Committee meeting was \$1.97 and that the District's strike price of \$1.90 has been provided to the oil company which will monitor the per gallon price and lock in the price at \$1.90 once the price drops.

Motion Carried: 6-0-0

11.2. Policy Committee (*Policy 2231 – Administration/Policy and Regulation Systems*) The Policy Committee was cancelled for the evening. The items listed below will be discussed at the next Policy Meeting scheduled for January 13, 2020.

11.2.1. Presentations – None

11.2.2. Action Items – None

11.2.3. Read Items

11.2.3.1. First Read

11.2.3.1.1. Policy Audit Series 6000

11.2.3.2. Second Read

11.2.3.2.1 Policy 6146 - Instruction - Graduation Requirements

11.2.4. Discussion Items

11.2.4.1. Policy 4212.4 - Personnel - Non-Certified - Physical Examination

12. Adjournment

Roxy Fainer moved and Frank Treglia seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Discussion: None

Motion Carried: 6-0-0

Chairperson Beth Campbell adjourned the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

