



MINUTES
THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
Thomaston High School Auditorium
Entrance Door #3
Monday, October 18, 2021
7:00 p.m.

Public May Attend In-Person ([see requirements](#))
This meeting can be viewed live on [Board of Education YouTube Channel](#)

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.

Board of Education Goals:

- 1) Spotlight on one staff member each Regular meeting (September - June)
 - 2) Conduct meetings that are efficient using hybrid meeting technology
 - 3) Provide relevant research and data prior to the formal presentation of that information to the Board.
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Members:

Beth Campbell, Chairperson	Roxy Fainer, Treasurer	Sarah Ethier
David Colavecchio, Vice Chairperson	Francine Coss, Superintendent	Steven Carr
Heather Patchell, Secretary	Nicole Rinaldi	Matthew VanOrmer
	Jennifer Nolan	

Student Representatives 2021 - 2022

Cesar Velez Delaney Jose

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 7:03pm.
- 1.2. Board Members in Attendance: **Chairperson Beth Campbell, Treasurer Roxy Fainer, Secretary Heather Patchell, Sarah Ethier, Nicole Rinaldi, Matthew VanOrmer, Jennifer Nolan, Steven Carr**
- 1.3. Board Member Absent: **Vice Chairperson David Colavecchio**
- 1.4. Student Representative in Attendance: **Delaney Jose**
- 1.5. Student Representative in Attendance Virtually: **Cesar Velez**
- 1.6. Others in Attendance: **Kristin Bernier, Jessica Bedosky, John Perrucci, Gianni Perugini, Jonathan Kozlak, Spencer Luthy and Family, Mel Shkrepi, Perparim Shkrepi, Leandra Shkrepi, Katie Pelletier**

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*)

Roxy Fainer motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to accept/approve the agenda of the Board of Education Meeting dated October 18, 2021 as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 8-0-0

4. Public Participation ▲▲▲ (*Bylaws of the Board 9325– Meeting Conduct*)

The Board welcomes public participation in accordance with Thomaston Board of Education Policy 9325 – 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.

4.1 Katie Pelletier, 70 Woodbridge Lane, Thomaston

4.1.1. Ms. Pelletier addressed the Board regarding the Thomaston Center School's enrollment for 5th grade and the number of students that are in each classroom. Ms. Pelletier is concerned with the quality of education that her child receives due to the influx of new students. A copy of Ms. Pelletier's complete public comment has been attached to the end of these minutes.

5. Approval of Minutes ▲

(*Bylaws of the Board 9326 – Minutes*)

5.1. Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes dated September 13, 2021

Roxy Fainer motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to accept/approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of the Board of Education dated September 13, 2021 as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: **Heather Patchell and Jennifer Nolan**

Motion Carried: 6-0-2

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. Mel Shkrepi - Rotary Student of the Month - September 2021

6.2. October Staff Spotlight - Spencer Luthy, Head Custodian - Thomaston High School

7. Presentations ▲▲▲

(*Bylaws of the Board 9410 – Public Announcement of Accomplishments*)

7.1. Parent Academies - Jessica Bedosky, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Student Assessment

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. Letter from CABA Resolutions Committee to BOE Chairperson Beth Campbell

9.2. Welcome Back Gathering - Meet and Greet - New Employees of Thomaston Public Schools - October 18, 2021

10. Superintendent’s Report ▲▲▲

(Policy 2131 – Administration – Superintendent of Schools)

10.1. Correspondence

10.1.1. Superintendent Correspondences

- 10.1.1.1. Letters of quarantine and isolation from Superintendent Francine Coss to parents for COVID-related childcare work absences
- 10.1.1.2. Letters from Superintendent Francine Coss to Contracted Services provided to Thomaston Public Schools regarding compliance with Governor Lamont’s Executive Order 13G
- 10.1.1.3. Effective School Solutions - MINDBEAT - Welcome Back 2021
- 10.1.1.4. Effective School Solutions - MINDBEAT - October 2021
- 10.1.1.5. Effective School Solutions - MINDBEAT - October 6, 2021
- 10.1.1.6. Letter from Superintendent Coss acknowledging Notice of Intent: Instruction of Student at Home - Student E
- 10.1.1.7. Letter from Superintendent Coss acknowledging Notice of Intent: Instruction of Student at Home - Student F
- 10.1.1.8. Letter from Superintendent Coss acknowledging Notice of Intent: Instruction of Student at Home - Student G
- 10.1.1.9. Letter from Superintendent Coss acknowledging Notice of Intent: Instruction of Student at Home - Student H
- 10.1.1.10. Letter from Superintendent Coss acknowledging Notice of Intent: Instruction of Student at Home - Student I
- 10.1.1.11. Letter from Superintendent Coss acknowledging Notice of Intent: Instruction of Student at Home - Student J
- 10.1.1.12. Letter from Superintendent Coss to parent regarding the enrollment of child as a non-resident of Thomaston and the cost of tuition when residency is unable to be provided per Policy 5118
- 10.1.1.13. Thank you letter to Robert Rubbo, MPH, RS, Director of Health - Torrington Area Health District for his presentation at the September 13, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Board of Education regarding the results of the status of the COVID-19 pandemic
- 10.1.1.14. Thank you letter to Jessica Bedosky, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment for her presentation at the September 13, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Board of Education on the 2021 Smarter Balanced Assessment Results
- 10.1.1.15. Thank you letter to Jessica Bedosky, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment for sharing her 2021-2022 convocation video at the September 13, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
- 10.1.1.16. Thank you letter to Susan Larson, Reading Interventionist and the Director of Extended School Year, Summer School and COVID-19 Remediation program, Thomaston Public Schools at the September 13, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Board of Education on the 2021 Extended School Year, Summer School and COVID-19 Remediation Program

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- 10.1.1.17. Residency Determination Letter - Student A
 - 10.1.1.18. Appeal of Residency Determination and Hearing Letter - Student A
 - 10.1.1.19. Residency Hearing Letter - Student B
 - 10.1.1.20. Appeal of Residency Determination and Hearing Letter - Student B
 - 10.1.2. Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE)
 - 10.1.2.1. October 2021 Journal
 - 10.1.3. Connecticut Association of Public Schools Superintendents (CAPSS) - None
 - 10.1.4. United States Department of Education (USDE) - None
 - 10.1.5. Department of Public Health (DPH)
 - 10.1.5.1. Implementation Guidance for Executive Order 13G: Vaccination Mandate for Individuals Working for State Facilities, State Hospitals, Public and Non-Public PreK-12 Schools, and Child Care Facilities (Updated September 22, 2021)
 - 10.1.6. Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE)
 - 10.1.6.1. Implementation Guidance for Executive Order 13G: Vaccination Mandate for Individuals Working for State Facilities, State Hospitals, Public and Non-Public PreK-12 Schools, and Child Care Facilities (September 17, 2021)
 - 10.1.6.2. Bureau of Educator Standards and Certification: Clinical Placement Guidance
 - 10.1.6.3. Certification Alert: Significant Changes to Bilingual Education Certification Requirements
 - 10.1.6.4. Certification Resources and On-Going Flexibilities
 - 10.1.6.5. Resources to Implement the Flexibilities within the CT Guidelines for Educator Evaluation 2017 and Adopting Flexibilities for the 2021-22 School Year
 - 10.1.6.6. State Supported Testing Sites in Operation as of September 10, 2021
 - 10.1.6.7. Family Assessment on CSDE 2020 - 2021 Assessment Data
 - 10.1.6.8. Letter to Board of Education Members and Superintendents from the Members of the State Board of Education
 - 10.1.6.9. 2019-2020 District Annual Performance Reports and Determinations
 - 10.1.6.10. 2021 Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) District Determination Process (2019 - 2020 Data)
 - 10.1.6.11. Attendance Rate and Chronic Absenteeism - 2019 - 2020 Addendum
 - 10.1.6.12. Resources to Implement the Flexibilities within the Connecticut Guidelines for Educator Evaluation 2017 (Guidelines 2017) and Adopting the Flexibilities for the 2021-2022 School Year
 - 10.1.6.13. 2020-2021 Assessment Data Shows the Positive Effects of In-Person Learning Over Hybrid and Remote Models
 - 10.1.6.14. Performance Matters - September 2021
 - 10.1.6.15. Student Assessment News - September 2021
 - 10.1.6.16. Student Assessment News - October 7, 2021
 - 10.1.6.17. Rising Costs to School Child Nutrition Programs
 - 10.1.6.18. Center for Literacy Research and Reading Success at the CSDE
 - 10.1.6.19. Eversource Connecticut Hardship and Matching Payment Programs
 - 10.2. Reports, Contracts and General Information
 - 10.2.1. Reports
 - 10.2.1.1. Administrator Reports
 - 10.2.1.1.1. October 2021
 - 10.2.1.1.2. Jessica Bedosky, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
 - 10.2.1.1.2.1. Grade 11 US History Curriculum Guide

Roxy Fainer motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to accept/approve the Grade 11 US History Curriculum Guide as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 8-0-0

10.2.1.2. Enrollment Report

10.2.1.2.1. October 1, 2021

[Superintendent Coss' Comment Regarding Enrollment for Thomaston Public Schools](#)

10.2.2. Contracts

10.2.2.1. Area Cooperative Educational Services (ACES) and Thomaston Public Schools - 2020-2021 Student Agreement

10.2.3. Grants

10.2.3.1. - Consolidated Title I and II Grant Application

10.2.3.2. - Consolidated Title III Grant Application

10.2.3.3. - Adult Education Grant Application

10.2.4. General Information

10.2.4.1. Fund-Raisers

10.2.4.1.1. Halloween Dance - Class of 2027 - Thomaston High School

10.2.4.1.2. Class Dues - Class of 2027 - Thomaston High School

10.2.4.1.3. Student Fees for Institute for American Indian Studies Field Trip - English Classes - Thomaston High School

10.2.4.1.4. School Store Sale of Merchandise - Class of 2022 - Thomaston High School

10.2.4.1.5. Paint Parking Spots/Driveways - Class of 2022 - Thomaston High School

10.2.4.1.6. Sale of Bottled Spices from Nutmeg Spice Company - Class of 2022 - Thomaston High School

10.2.4.1.7. Big E Field Trip - Class of 2022 - Thomaston High School

10.2.4.1.8. Class Dues - Class of 2026 - Thomaston High School

10.2.4.1.9. Staff Dress Down - School and Community - Thomaston High School

10.2.5. Personnel

(Policy 4112/4212 - Personnel - Certified/Non-Certified Appointment and Conditions of Employment)

10.2.5.1. New Hires

10.2.5.1.1. Jessica Fedorich, Building Substitute Teacher (temporary, per diem) - Thomaston High School - Effective September 28, 2021

10.2.5.1.2. Jane Cretella, Long-Term Substitute School Counselor (temporary, per diem) - Thomaston High School - Effective September 27, 2021

10.2.5.1.3. Erin Dake, Part-Time Kitchen Worker - Thomaston High School - Effective September 18, 2021

10.2.5.2. Transfers/New Assignment

10.2.5.2.1. Kelly DiDonato, Kitchen Worker, Thomaston High School to Substitute Kitchen Worker, Thomaston Public Schools - Effective September 1, 2021

10.2.5.3. Resignations

10.2.5.3.1. Kelly DiDonato, Kitchen Worker, Thomaston High School - Effective August 12, 2021

10.2.5.3.2. Sharon Machin, Special Education Teacher, Thomaston Center School - Effective September 16, 2021

10.2.5.3.3. Emily Dominiononi, Family and Consumer Science Teacher, Thomaston High School - Effective October 20, 2021

10.2.5.4. Retirement - None

10.2.5.5. Renewals - None

10.2.5.6. Stipends - 2021 - 2021

10.2.5.6.1. Kelly Finlay, Girls Freshman Basketball Coach - Thomaston High School

10.2.5.6.2. Brian Mozelak, Girls Assistant JV Basketball Coach - Thomaston High School

10.2.5.6.3. Robert McMahon, Girls Varsity Basketball Coach - Thomaston High School

10.2.5.6.4. Mark Olsen, Indoor Track Coach - Thomaston High School

10.2.5.6.5. James Bunel, Boys Assistant Basketball Coach - Thomaston High School

10.2.5.6.6. Aaron Bunel, Boys Varsity Basketball Coach - Thomaston High School

10.2.5.6.7. Kelly Finlay, Softball Varsity Coach - Thomaston High School

Roxy Fainer motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded 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.

[Discussion Link](#)

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 8-0-0

10.2.5.7. Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) - None

(Policy 4152.6/4252.6 – Personnel – Certified/Non-Certified Personal Leaves Family and Medical Leave Act)

10.2.5.8. Interns and Student Teachers - None

(Policy 1212–Community Relations–School Volunteer)

10.2.5.9. Field Trips (out of state)

(Policy 6153 - Instruction Field Trips - Secondary Schools)

10.2.5.9.1. - Paris, Normandy and London - June 22, 2023 - July 1, 2023 - Travel Club - Thomaston High School (this trip replaces the canceled trip of 2020)

Roxy Fainer motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to accept/approve the field trip to Paris, Normandy and London from June 22, 2023 - July 1, 2023

[Discussion Link](#)

Opposed: **Roxy Fainer**

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 7-1-0

(Policy 6153 - Instruction Field Trips - Secondary Schools)

10.2.5.10. Sales and Disposal of Books, Equipment and Supplies

(Policy 3260 Business/Non-Instructional Operations Sales & Disposal of Books, Equipment & Supplies)

10.2.5.10.1. Disposal of Social Studies Textbooks - 4th Grade Curriculum

10.2.5.10.1.1. Response from Superintendent Coss to Kristin Bernier, Principal, Thomaston Center School

10.2.5.10.2. Disposal of Social Studies Textbooks - 6th Grade Curriculum

10.2.5.10.2.1. Response from Superintendent Coss to Kristin Bernier, Principal, Thomaston Center School

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

11.1.1. Business Manager Report

11.1.1.1. September Business Report

11.1.1.1.1. 2021-2022 Budget Table Without Encumbrances

11.1.1.1.2. 2021-2022 Budget Table With Encumbrances

11.1.1.1.3. 2021-2023 Grant Report

11.1.1.1.4. 2021-2022 Transfers

11.1.1.1.5. Expenditures

11.1.1.1.5.1. September 2021: \$2,129,047.88

Roxy Fainer motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to accept / approve the Business and Finance Report and Expenditures per Policy 3432/3433 Business/Non-Instructional Operations - Budget & Expense Report/Annual Financial Statement as presented.

[Discussion Link](#)

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 8-0-0

11.2. Policy Committee

(Policy 2231–Administration/Policy and Regulation Systems)

11.2.1. Presentations - None

11.2.2. Discussion Items

11.2.2.1. Policy 6172.3 - Instruction - Home Schooling - Equivalent Education Under Parental Direction

11.2.2.1.1. Policy 6172.3 - Marked Up Copy

11.2.2.1.2. Policy 6172.3 - Clean Copy

11.2.2.2. Non-Resident Attendance Tuition Students - Francine Coss, Superintendent

11.2.2.2.1. Policy 5118 - Nonresident Attendance/Student Tuition

11.2.2.2.1.1. Policy 5111 - Admission/Placement

11.2.2.2.1.2. Policy 5112 - Ages of Attendance

11.2.2.2.1.3. Policy 5112.4 - Disenrollment

11.2.2.2.1.4. Policy 3240 - Tuition Fees

11.2.2.2.1.5. Policy 5118 - C.A.B.E. - Nonresident Attendance

11.2.2.2.1.6. Policy 5118 - C.A.B.E. - Nonresident Students - Form 4

11.2.2.2.1.7. Non-Resident Policies from Area School Districts

11.2.2.2.1.7.1. Region 6 (Warren/Morris/Goshen) and Litchfield

11.2.2.2.1.7.1.1. Region 6 Policy 5118 - Students Nonresident Attendance - Region 6

11.2.2.2.1.7.1.2. Region 6/Litchfield Schools Memorandum of Agreement - Pilot Nonresident Tuition Free Students of Employees

11.2.2.2.1.7.2. Region 12 (Washington/Bridgewater/Roxbury)

11.2.2.2.1.7.2.1. Region 12 Policy 5118.2 Students - Enrollment of the Children of Non-Resident Certified and Non-Certified Staff

11.2.2.2.1.7.2.2. Region 12 Policy 5118.3 - Students - Non-Resident Attendance

11.2.3. First Read Items - None

11.2.4. Second Read Items

11.2.4.1. Policy 5132 - Students - Dress and Grooming

1.1.1.1.1. Current Policy

1.1.1.1.2. Proposed Changes (post-pandemic)

1.1.1.1.3. Clean Copy

11.2.5. Action Items - None

12. Enter Executive Session for the purpose of strategy and negotiations with respect to the collective bargaining unit with the Thomaston Education Association.

Roxy Fainer motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to enter into Executive Session at 7:48pm for the purpose of strategy and negotiations with respect to the collective bargaining unit with the Thomaston Education Association regarding the contract dated July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2026.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 8-0-0

13. Exit Executive Session/Enter into Regular Session - Exit Executive Session at 8:37pm.

Roxy Fainer motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to accept/approve the Agreement between the Thomaston Board of Education and the Thomaston Education Association dated July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2026 as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: **Nicole Rinaldi**

Motion Carried: 7-0-1

14. Adjournment

Roxy Fainer motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to adjourn the meeting. Chairperson Beth Campbell adjourned the meeting at 8:38pm.

October 18, 2021

Dear Mrs. Coss and Thomaston Board of Education,

I am writing this letter in regards to Thomaston Center School's 5th grade class. At this time, I have concerns over the number of students that are in each classroom. From what is being reported there are 26-27 students in each academic class, homeroom, and specials class on any given day. My understanding is that this grade has had the highest out of district transfers this year of approximately 17 students. As a parent I am concerned with the quality of education that my child is receiving due to the influx of new students. The teachers are doing the best job that they can to accommodate the new higher number but also have to accommodate for 504 plans and IEP plans in the classroom.

This new dynamic in the 5th grade has only exacerbated the behavioral challenges in the classroom and the speed at which academic information can be taught. There is not special programming that I am aware of that will challenge students that are capable of advancing and understanding the material at a quicker rate. These students will eventually become bored with the educational process and unprepared for challenges when they enter into the 7th grade. There is also limited resources for the students that are struggling and need more academic and behavioral intervention at this time to be successful.

After presenting this information I am asking that you consider a few different things. The first thing is adding a fourth teacher for this class. This class will have 26-27 students in the classroom now until they get into high school. This number of students is unheard of for Thomaston and something you would usually see in very large school district. The next thing I am asking you to consider is to create programs that will challenge the students that traditionally do well. Challenging these students will allow them to be prepared for the future, decrease boredom with the education process and achieve higher test scores for the district.

I would like to thank you for your time and consideration in regards to the information that I presented today. Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Katie Pelletier