

MINUTES
THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING

Monday, January 4, 2021

7:00 p.m.

Meeting Held Virtually

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.

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 2020-2021

Isabella Guerrero
McKenna O'Sullivan
Cesar Velez

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. Attendance by Roll Call: **Chairperson Beth Campbell, Vice Chairperson David Colavecchio, Secretary Heather Patchell, Treasurer Roxy Fainer, Salvatore SantaMaria, Frank Treglia, Jennifer Nolan, Matthew VanOrmer, Sarah Ethier, Superintendent Francine Coss**
- 1.3. Student Representatives Present: **Isabella Guerrero, McKenna O'Sullivan, Cesar Velez**
- 1.4. The meeting was streamed live on the Board of Education YouTube Channel. The youtube link was made available on the Special Meeting agenda.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. 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/group to address the Board concerning any subject that lies within its jurisdiction shall be as follows:

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- After Connecticut Executive Order 7, the Thomaston Board of Education meetings are held virtually. Public participation for virtual meetings is permitted through written comment. Those who wish to make public comments during a virtual meeting of the Thomaston Board of Education shall:
 - Submit public comments at least one (1) hour before the scheduled start of the virtual meeting
 - Submit public comments via the Thomaston Board of Education Public Comment Google Form at <https://forms.gle/WtQ7LkbUdpWrsCwJ6>.
- NOTE: Written public comments that meet the criteria above shall be read aloud by a Board member during the Board of Education meeting.

3.1. Chairperson Beth Campbell read a public comment submitted by Amanda Behuniak - 139 Smith Road,

"I am writing to the board tonight, to Strongly consider our students return to school on January 19, 2021. We personally have four children in district. All four of them receive special education services to some degree. The age range is preschool to fourth grade. It has been a very trying time for our family during this closure. As hard as their teams try, their services are just not the same as they are in person. We say this, not to bring grievance, but so that you, as a board, can understand the severity of the situation at hand. At the special Board of Education meeting where we were presented with the results of the surveys, it appeared to be the only thought for parents wanting their children in school was for child care. I can tell you personally, that I have had to resign from my position in an emergency department, during a pandemic, to fully manage my children schedules. Our youngest child is in pre-k and cannot attend during live circle time and our feeling is that he is not gaining any of the social skills nor the foundations that he needs to enter kindergarten. Our three other children's grades have slipped significantly, due to the fact that they are hands-on learners. We also understand that the typical hands-on learning is not fully occurring even when they are in person. Our children specifically, thrive off of routines and being in a surrounding that better promotes learning. I understand some children thrive at home with their education and that is why, parents were given a choice to have their children be full distant learners.

We have seen a drastic change in behaviors and focus level when trying to attend to synchronous learning because of distractions at home and that are occurring through Google meet. We urge you to strongly consider a return to in-person learning and handle individual cases and quarantines as they arise, like all the other districts in our area. We can and should be doing more for our children's education. "

3.2. Chairperson Beth Campbell read a public comment submitted by Nicole Maloid- 158 Atwood Road

"I write this very brief letter on behalf of my special Ed son who currently is in 2nd grade at BRS as well as the other approximate 844 students present in the school system. We were given the option to home school, but never given the option to continue solely in-person learning when the time came. My son was taken disruptively out of the classroom going 5 days a week to strict distance learning. No hybrid model, no parent input. I don't need a baby sitter, I need a licensed educator. One who is experienced and knows how to help my son during math time when he's struggling getting the concept, or through reading when he continues to get 25 or 50% on a comprehension assignment that he doesn't understand and needs someone to provide him support. My son is now failing math and has dropped all his academic grades. He even struggles through some of the specials assignments where I find myself messaging educators how to do what the assignment asks. I'm sorry I don't find it appropriate that I need to understand and learn the concept in order for me to teach my son. Although we've stepped up during unprecedented times, I don't think we have done our absolute best as there is ALWAYS room for improvement. I've watched my son cry on countless occasions, have behavioral outbursts that we didn't even know existed anymore, and struggle through distance learning while feeling like he is "never going to get it." It is not a "good idea" to provide the option of in-person learning but it is IMPERATIVE these children go back to school immediately. Please familiarize yourself with something that happens numerous times a week now that we have decided to enclose our children at home. "

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

4.1. Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes dated December 14, 2020

4.1.1. Response to December 14, 2020 Public Comment - Shawn McGee

David Colavecchio motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to accept/approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of the Board of Education dated December 14, 2020 as presented.

Abstentions: **Heather Patchell**

Opposed: None

Discussion: None

Motion Carries: 8-1-0

5. 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)

5.1. December Rotary Student of the Month - Kiersten Sundell

5.2. Nathan Scarola - 10th Annual Celebration of Young Photographers

5.3. Seth Murphy - History Teacher, Thomaston High School - UCONN Early College Experience Graduate Scholarship

6. Presentations ▲▲▲ (Bylaws of the Board 9410 – Public Announcement of Accomplishments) - None

7. Student Representatives Report ▲▲▲ (Bylaws of the Board 9160 – Student Representation on the Board of Education)

8. Chairperson’s Report ▲▲▲ (Bylaws of the Board 9121 – Office of the Chairperson)

8.1. USPS Mail to Thomaston Board of Education Members

8.2. Two Year Board of Education Meeting Calendar - 2022 & 2023

David Colavecchio motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to accept/approve the 2022 & 2023 Two Year Board of Education Meeting Calendar as presented.

Discussion : [Discussion Link](#)

Abstentions: None

Opposed: None

Motion Carries: 9-0-0

9. Superintendent’s Report ▲▲▲ (Policy 2131 – Administration – Superintendent of Schools)

9.1. Correspondence

9.1.1. Superintendent

9.1.1.1. Recognition Letter and Gift to Student from Superintendent Coss - November Rotary Student of the Month

9.1.1.2. Holiday Greeting Card from Roxy Fainer and Family to Superintendent Coss and the Thomaston Board of Education

9.1.1.3. Holiday Greeting Card from Xerox Company to Superintendent Francine Coss and the Thomaston Board of Education

9.1.1.4. Holiday Greeting Card from Friar Architecture to Superintendent Francine Coss and the Thomaston Board of Education

9.1.1.5. Holiday Greeting Card from Silver/Petrucelli and Associates to Superintendent Francine Coss and the Thomaston Board of Education

9.1.1.6. NW CT Health Enhancement Communities - Priority Aims Assessment Data Scan & Community Engagement Activities Report - January 2020

9.1.1.7. Effective School Solutions - Insights Special Report - English & Spanish Versions

9.1.1.8. Mindbeat - November 11, 2020

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- 9.1.1.9. Mindbeat - November 25, 2020
 - 9.1.1.10. Thank you note from the Lascko Family to the Thomaston Board of Education, administration, and staff
 - 9.1.1.11. Updated CDC and Department of Public Health Guidance on Length of Self-Quarantine
 - 9.1.1.12. Thomaston Public School News for Staff - Fall 2020
 - 9.1.1.13. Exit Interview Letters Per Policy 4117.6 - Thomaston Public Schools Staff
 - 9.1.1.14. 2020-2021 Educator Certification Compliance Report - Thomaston Public Schools
 - 9.1.1.15. 2020-2021 Thomaston Public Schools District Calendar - Proposed Changes
 - 9.1.1.16. 2021-2022 Thomaston Public Schools District Calendar - Proposed Changes

David Colavecchio motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to accept/approve the 2020-2021 Updated District Calendar as presented with proposed changes.

David Colavecchio motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to accept/approve the 2021-2022 Updated District Calendar Update as presented with proposed changes.

Discussion: [Discussion Link](#)

As a result of the discussion on the above motion, the following motion was made:

David Colavecchio motioned to accept/approve the 2020-2021 calendar as amended and to table the 2021-2022 calendar until a report is provided next month and Matthew VanOrmer seconded.

Discussion: None

Abstentions: None

Opposed: None

Motion Carries: 9-0-0

- 9.1.2. Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) None
- 9.1.3. Connecticut Association of Public Schools Superintendents (CAPSS) - None
- 9.1.4. Department of Public Health (DPH) - None
- 9.1.5. Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE)
 - 9.1.5.1. Joint Cybersecurity Advisory
 - 9.1.5.2. Connecticut Intelligence Center (CTIC) Application and Non-Disclosure Agreement
 - 9.1.5.3. COVID-19 School Submission Reporting Guidance (Updated 12-11-2020)
 - 9.1.5.4. Reimagining Employee Work to Support Students Educational Needs
 - 9.1.5.5. Connecticut Comprehensive School Counseling Framework
 - 9.1.5.6. English Learners Program Checklists
 - 9.1.5.7. Alternate Route to Certification

9.2. Reports, Contracts and General Information

9.2.1. Reports

- 9.2.1.1. Administrator Reports - January 2021
- 9.2.1.2. Enrollment - January 1, 2021
 - 9.2.1.2.1. 2020-2021 NESDEC Enrollment Projection Service Form - Thomaston Public Schools
- 9.2.1.3. Distance Learning Report - Superintendent Francine Coss
 - 9.2.1.3.1. District Instruction Model Options and COVID-19 Data Discussion - Superintendent of Schools and District/School Administrators
 - 9.2.1.3.1.1. [Oral Report Link - Francine Coss, Superintendent](#)

David Colavecchio motioned and Heather Patchell seconded to go back to full in-person instruction starting on January 19th.

Discussion: [Discussion Link](#)

As a result of the discussion on the above motion, the following motion was made:

David Colavecchio motioned and Heather Patchell seconded to go back to full in-person 5 days instruction starting on January 19th.

Vote by Roll Call:

David Colavecchio: aye

Heather Patchell: aye

Roxy Fainer: nay

Salvatore SantaMaria: nay

Frank Treglia: aye

Jennifer Nolan: nay

Matthew VanOrmer: aye

Sarah Ethier: aye

Chairperson Beth Campbell noted that the chairperson is not required to vote with the majority, however Beth stated she would have voted aye, in favor.

Per **Salvatore SantaMaria's** request, the Board may meet prior to January 19th if the number of cases in Connecticut begin to rise. If the number of cases do begin to rise, they will decide as to how school will reopen and which model will be utilized.

Motion Carries: Return to school to full in-person for 5 days instruction starting on January 19, 2021.

9.2.2. Contracts - None

9.2.3. Grants- 2021

9.2.3.1. School Readiness FY 21 Quality Enhancement

9.2.3.2. School Readiness - Competitive

9.2.3.3. Title IV Part A

9.2.3.4. IDEA 611

9.2.3.5. Consolidated Title I-A and Title II-A

9.2.3.6. Perkins Grant

9.2.3.7. State Adult Education

9.2.4. General Information

9.2.4.1. Fund-Raisers - None

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

9.2.5.1. New Hires - None

9.2.5.2. Transfers/New Assignment - None

9.2.5.3. Retirements - None

9.2.5.4. Resignations - None

9.2.5.5. Termination

9.2.5.5.1. Paul Clement - Custodian - Regular Part-Time (temporary) - Thomaston Center School

9.2.5.6. Renewals - None

9.2.5.7. Stipends - None

David Colavecchio motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to acknowledge the Superintendent's notification of Personnel, specifically, Terminations, New Hires/Transfers/Retirements/ Resignations/Renewals/Stipends per Policy 4112/4212 Personnel – Certified/Non-Certified Appointment and Conditions of Employment as presented.

Discussion: None

Abstentions: None

Opposed: None

Motion carries: 9-0-0

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

9.2.5.8.1. Employee A

9.2.5.9. Interns and Student Teachers (Policy 1212 – Community Relations – School Volunteers)

9.2.5.9.1. Melissa Campo -Thomaston Center School - Effective January 19, 2021

9.2.5.9.2. Alizabeth Sullivan - Black Rock School - Effective January 4, 2021

9.2.5.10. Field Trips (out of state) (Policy 6153 - Instruction Field Trips - Secondary Schools) - None

9.2.5.11. Policy 3260 Business/Non-Instructional Operations Sales & Disposal of Books, Equipment & Supplies - None

10. Committee Reports ▲ (Bylaws of the Board 9132 – Standing Committees and Bylaws of the Board 9133 - Special Committees/Advisory Committees)

10.1. Business Manager Report

10.1.1. December Business Report - Business Manager's Meeting Scheduled for January 6, 2021

10.2. Policy Committee (Policy 2231 – Administration/Policy and Regulation Systems)

10.2.1. Presentations - None

10.2.2. Discussion Items

10.2.2.1. Current Policy 4000.1

10.2.2.2. Current Regulation 4118.111

10.2.2.3. Current Policy 0521.1

Matthew VanOrmer reported that the Policy Committee will look into fast-track the following Title IX policies at the February 8th 2021 meeting to an action item.

Policy 4000.1

Policy 0521.1

Policy 4118.112/4218.112

Policy 5145.5

[Discussion Link](#)

10.2.3. First Read Items - None

10.2.4. Second Read Items - None

10.2.5. Action Items

10.2.5.1. Policy 0200

10.2.5.1.1. Current Policy

10.2.5.1.2. Proposed Changes - Marked Up Copy

10.2.5.1.3. Proposed Changes - Clean Copy

David Colavecchio motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to accept/approve Policy 0200 proposed changes as presented.

Discussion: None

Abstentions: None

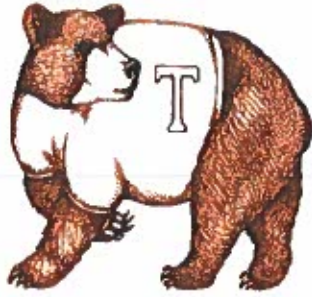
Opposed: None

Motion carries: 9-0-0

11. Adjournment

David Colavecchio motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Chairperson Beth Campbell adjourned the meeting at 8:38pm.



THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

185 BRANCH ROAD
THOMASTON, CT 06787
860-283-3053

WWW.THOMASTONSCHOOLS.ORG

BETH CAMPBELL, CHAIRPERSON

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.

Shawn McGee
45 Woodbridge
Thomaston, CT 06787
soxucshawn@yahoo.com

DELIVERED VIA U.S. POST OFFICE AND ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dear Mr. McGee,

Monday, December 28, 2020

Thank you for participating in the public comment portion of the December 14, 2020 Thomaston Board of Education meeting. Your questions and the Board's answers are below:

QUESTION: Has there been any movement on a plan to at least get the elementary kids back in person?

ANSWERS: *This option has been and will continue to be part of the Board of Education discussion regarding in-person instruction. The next Board of Education meeting when this will be part of the discussion is Monday, January 4, 2021.*

QUESTION: Can we please stop with the emails notifying us every time someone is sick?

ANSWERS: *Emailing COVID-19 positive updates to staff and parents will continue per the recommendation of the Connecticut State Department of Education and so that rumors about COVID-19 positive cases will not replace facts. Close contact information has not been shared as it is deemed unnecessary to share by the Connecticut Department of Public Health.*

Thank you again for participating in the public comment portion of this month's meeting.

Sincerely,


Beth Campbell
Chairperson

Cc: Thomaston Board of Education