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## MINUTES

### THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

Monday, January 10, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Thomaston High School Auditorium, Entrance Door#3

This meeting can be viewed live/recorded on the [Board of Education YouTube Channel](#).

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*NOTE: Due to the high number of COVID-19 positive cases in Thomaston Public Schools, the Thomaston Board of Education was held in accordance with Public Act No. 21-2 §§ 149-154 — Public Agency Meetings Using Electronic Equipment, which allows public agencies to hold public meetings that are accessible to the public through electronic equipment. This meeting was held virtually only and was accessible to the public through the District's YouTube Channel. A notification of the change in meeting location was distributed to the public by Superintendent Francine Coss on Sunday, January 9, 2022 and again on Monday, January 10, 2022 prior to the meeting.*

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#### 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.

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#### 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:

**Roxy Fainer, Chairperson**  
**David Colavecchio, Vice Chairperson**  
**Heather Patchell, Secretary**

**Steven Carr, Treasurer**  
**Francine Coss, Superintendent**  
**Frank Treglia**  
**Marie Eldridge**

**Sarah Ethier**  
**Beth Campbell**  
**Matthew VanOrmer**

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#### Student Representatives 2021-2022

**Cesar Velez**      **Delaney Jose**

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### 1. Establishment of a Quorum and Call to Order

*(Bylaws of the Board 9325.1 – Quorum)*

- 1.1. **Chairperson Roxy Fainer** called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.
- 1.2. Board Members in Attendance: **Chairperson Roxy Fainer, Vice Chairperson David Colavecchio, Treasurer Steven Carr, Secretary Heather Patchell, Matthew VanOrmer, Sarah Ethier, Beth Campbell, Frank Treglia, Marie Eldridge, Superintendent Francine Coss.**
- 1.3. Student Representative in Attendance: **Delaney Jose**
- 1.4. Student Representative Absent: **Cesar Velez**
- 1.5. Others in Attendance: **Andrea Peters, Jonathan Kozlak, John Perrucci, Gianni Perugini, Jessica Bedosky, Fran Rabinowitz, Sue Santovasi**

### 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)*

**Matthew VanOrmer motioned and Steven Carr seconded to accept/approve the agenda of the Board of Education Meeting dated January 10, 2022 as presented.**

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

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Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 9-0-0

**4. Public Participation** ▲▲▲ - None

*(Bylaws of the Board 9325 – Meeting Conduct)*

**5. Approval of Minutes** ▲

*(Bylaws of the Board 9326 – Minutes)*

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

**Matthew VanOrmer motioned and Steven Carr seconded to accept/approve the Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes dated December 13, 2021 as presented.**

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 9-0-0

**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. December 2021 Students of the Month

- 6.1.1. Kindergarten - Zoe Michaud - November 2021
- 6.1.2. Kindergarten - Noah Fedorich - December 2021
- 6.1.3. Grade 1 - Adrianna Rodriguez - December 2021
- 6.1.4. Grade 2 - Camron Tirrell - December 2021
- 6.1.5. Grade 3 - Jack Guadino - December 2021
- 6.1.6. Grade 4 - Olivia Moher - December 2021
- 6.1.7. Grade 5 - Isabella Hoffman - December 2021
- 6.1.8. Grade 6 - LeAnna Gilmore - December 2021
- 6.1.9. Grade 7 - Cassidy Thibeau - December 2021
- 6.1.10. Grade 8 - Tyler Veronesi - December 2021
- 6.1.11. Grade 9 - Vincent Russman - December 2021
- 6.1.12. Grade 10 - Tyler LaPorta - December 2021
- 6.1.13. Grade 11 - Emma Marble - December 2021
- 6.1.14. Grade 12 - Julia Pupriqi - December 2021

The Students of the Month were recognized during the virtual meeting and will also be recognized in person at the next in-person Regular Meeting of the Board of Education. Each family received a phone call from **Superintendent Coss** Sunday evening, January 9th, notifying them of this change.

6.2. January Staff Spotlight - Megan Fitzgerald, Special Education Teacher - Black Rock School - TLC Program Ms. Fitzgerald was recognized during the virtual meeting and was also recognized in person by **Superintendent Coss** and **Chairperson Fainer** during a visit to Black Rock School where Ms. Fitzgerald was presented with a bouquet of flowers.

**7. Presentations** ▲▲▲

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

7.1. Public Policy Agenda 2022 - Fran Rabinowitz, Executive Director - Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS)

**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)*

**10. Superintendent's Report ▲▲▲**

*(Policy 2131 – Administration – Superintendent of Schools)*

10.1. Correspondence

10.1.1. Superintendent

- 10.1.1.1. Letters of Quarantine/Isolation from Superintendent Coss to Parents for COVID-Related Childcare/Work Absence
- 10.1.1.2. Thank You for Presentation from Superintendent Coss to Sheila McKay, CABE
- 10.1.1.3. Thank You for Presentation from Superintendent Coss to Administrative Council Members
- 10.1.1.4. Thank You for Presentation from Superintendent Coss to Gianni Perugini, District Safety Coordinator
- 10.1.1.5. Effective School Solutions - MINDBEAT - December 8, 2021
- 10.1.1.6. Effective School Solutions - MINDBEAT - December 15, 2021
- 10.1.1.7. Effective School Solutions - MINDBEAT - December 17, 2021
- 10.1.1.8. Effective School Solutions - MINDBEAT - December 22, 2021
- 10.1.1.9. Effective School Solutions - MINDBEAT - January 5, 2022
- 10.1.1.10. Holiday Greeting Card to Superintendent Coss and Thomaston Board of Education from Silver/Petrucci and Associates
- 10.1.1.11. Holiday Greeting Card to Superintendent Coss and Thomaston Board of Education from Partners for Educational Leadership
- 10.1.1.12. Holiday Greeting Card to Superintendent Coss and Thomaston Board of Education from Attorney Christine Chinni and Associates LLC
- 10.1.1.13. Thank you card from Doreen French, staff member of Thomaston Public Schools, to Superintendent Coss and the Thomaston BOE
- 10.1.1.14. Thank you card from Nicole Rinaldi, former Board of Education member to Superintendent Coss and the Thomaston BOE.
- 10.1.1.15. Fall 2021 Journal for Leadership and Instruction - New England School Development Council (NESDEC)
- 10.1.1.16. Letter from Robert Norton, Thomaston Fire Marshall, to Superintendent Coss
- 10.1.1.17. EDAdvance - District Data Report - 2020 - 2021
- 10.1.1.18. Email from Superintendent Coss to First Selectman Ed Mone - COVID-19 Test Kits
- 10.1.2. Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE)
  - 10.1.2.1. CABE Policy Highlights - November 26, 2021
  - 10.1.2.2. CABE Policy Highlights - December 10, 2021
  - 10.1.2.3. CABE Policy Highlights - December 24, 2021
  - 10.1.2.4. CABE Liaison Newsletter - December 2021
  - 10.1.2.5. CABE Liaison Newsletter - January 2022
  - 10.1.2.6. A Statement on Civility
- 10.1.3. Connecticut Association of Public Schools Superintendents (CAPSS)
  - 10.1.3.1. Internet/Social Media Safety Resources, Training, and Videos
- 10.1.4. United States Department of Education (USDE) - None
- 10.1.5. Department of Public Health (DPH) - None
- 10.1.6. Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE)
  - 10.1.6.1. Connecticut CT SEDS Additional District-Level Solutions Reports, Contracts and General Information
  - 10.1.6.2. iHealth COVID 19 Rapid Self-test Kits for Schools - December 27, 2021
  - 10.1.6.3. Student Assessment News - December 22, 2021
  - 10.1.6.4. UPDATE: Suspended Enforcement of Testing - December 22, 2021
  - 10.1.6.5. Streamlining the Annual Certification Compliance Process - December 16, 2021

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- 10.1.6.6. Recent Social Media Posts Regarding School Threats - December 14, 2021
  - 10.1.6.7. Operational Memorandum No. 03-22 Updated Requirements for Lunch Periods in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) - December 8, 2021)
  - 10.1.6.8. Student Assessment News - December 22, 2021
  - 10.1.6.9. EducateCT - December 2021
  - 10.1.6.10. Updated Considerations for Quarantine, Isolation, Testing, and Contact Tracing - Policies and Procedures in PreK-12 Schools
  - 10.1.6.11. Remote Learning During the COVID-19 Pandemic
  - 10.1.6.12. Message from the Commissioner of Education to Superintendents
  - 10.1.6.13. Response Email to the Message from the Commissioner of Education
  - 10.1.6.14. Document to Consider for COVID Tests Distribution to Students
  - 10.1.7. Reports
    - 10.1.7.1. Thomaston Public Schools Consolidated COVID-19 Data and Vaccination Rate Report
    - 10.1.7.2. COVID 19-Test Kits for Distribution for Public School Districts and Non Public Schools - Phase 1: January 3, 20202
      - 10.1.7.2.1. State Distribution of 675,000 COVID-19 Rapid Self-Tests for K-12 Schools and Early Childcare Providers - Governor Ned Lamont Press Release
      - 10.1.7.2.2. Thomaston Public Schools Distribution Plan
    - 10.1.7.3. Thomaston Public Schools Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan Semi-Annual Feedback Report
    - 10.1.7.4. Administrator Reports
      - 10.1.7.4.1. January 2022
        - 10.1.7.4.1.1. 2021 Cohort Graduation Results for Review - 100% Graduation Rate - Thomaston High School
    - 10.1.7.5. Enrollment Report
      - 10.1.7.5.1. January 1, 2022
      - 10.1.7.5.2. 2021-2022 New England School Development Council (NESDEC) Enrollment Projection Service Form - Thomaston Public Schools - Fall 2021
      - 10.1.7.5.3. 2021-2022 New England School Development Council (NESDEC) Enrollment Projection Report - Thomaston Public Schools - Fall 2021
  - 10.1.8. Contracts
    - 10.1.8.1. Memorandum of Agreement - Thomaston Education Association - Hiking Club Advisor
  - 10.1.9. Grants - None
  - 10.1.10. General Information
    - 10.1.10.1. Fund-Raisers
      - 10.1.10.1.1. Gift Wrapping/Donations to Community - Interact Club - Thomaston High School
      - 10.1.10.1.2. Carnation Sale for Valentine's Day - Class of 2024 - Thomaston High School
      - 10.1.10.1.3. Kickball Tournament - Class of 2024 - Thomaston High School
      - 10.1.10.1.4. Class Dues - Class of 2024 - Thomaston High School
      - 10.1.10.1.5. PJ Day for the Kids, Connecticut Children's Medical Center - Jonathan Kozlak
      - 10.1.10.1.6. Volleyball Tournament - Women in STEM Club - Thomaston High School
    - 10.1.10.2. Gift/Donation - None
  - 10.1.11. Personnel
    - (Policy 4112/4212 - Personnel - Certified/Non-Certified Appointment and Conditions of Employment)
    - 10.1.11.1. New Hires
      - 10.1.11.1.1. Marissa Mendoza, Special Education Teacher (per diem), Thomaston Center School - Effective December 20, 2021
      - 10.1.11.1.2. Allison Hart, Cafeteria Worker/Lunch Monitor (per diem) - Thomaston Center
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- School - Effective December 20, 2021
- 10.1.11.1.3. Erin Fainer, Building Substitute Teacher (temporary/per diem) - Thomaston High School - Effective December 14, 2021
- 10.1.11.2. Transfers/New Assignment
- 10.1.11.2.1. Amanda Behuniak, transfer from Daily Substitute (per diem) to Long Term Substitute Family and Consumer Science Teacher (per diem) - Effective December 15, 2021
- 10.1.11.3. Reassignment - None
- 10.1.11.4. Resignations
- 10.1.11.4.1. Jessica Thier, Paraprofessional, Thomaston High School - Effective December 22, 2021
- 10.1.11.4.2. Christopher Woodard, Custodian, Class III - Black Rock School - Effective December 15, 2021
- 10.1.11.5. Retirement
- 10.1.11.5.1. Maureen LaPlante, 10 Month Secretary - School Counseling Office - Effective June 30, 2022
- 10.1.11.6. Termination - None
- 10.1.11.7. Renewals - None
- 10.1.11.8. Stipends - 2021-2022
- 10.1.11.8.1. D.C. Mega-Trip Coordinator - Heidi Laus

**Steven Carr 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: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: **Chairperson Roxy Fainer, Beth Campbell**

Motion Carried: 7-0-2

- 10.1.11.9. Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) - None  
*(Policy 4152.6/4252.6 – Personnel – Certified/Non-Certified Personal Leaves Family and Medical Leave Act)*
- 10.1.11.10. Interns and Student Teachers - None  
*(Policy 1212–Community Relations–School Volunteer)*
- 10.1.11.11. Field Trips (out of state) - None  
*(Policy 6153 - Instruction Field Trips - Secondary Schools)*
- 10.1.11.12. Sales and Disposal of Books, Equipment and Supplies - None  
*(Policy 3260 Business/Non-Instructional Operations Sales & Disposal of Books, Equipment & Supplies)*

## **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. December 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. December 2021: \$1,528,291.56

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

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Discussion: None  
Opposed: None  
Abstain: None  
Motion Carried: 9-0-0

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. P.A. 21-1 (June Spec. Session) An Act Concerning Responsible and Equitable Regulation of Adult-Use

11.2.2.1.1. Thomaston Board of Education Policy 4118.235 - Personnel - Certified/Non-Certified - Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco - Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace, Medical Marijuana Standards

11.2.2.1.1.1. Current Policy

11.2.2.1.1.2. Attorney Marked Up Copy

11.2.2.1.1.3. Clean Copy

11.2.2.1.2. Thomaston Board of Education Policy 4119 - Personnel - Certified/Non-Certified - Staff Conduct

11.2.2.1.2.1. Current Policy

11.2.2.1.2.2. Attorney Marked Up Copy

11.2.2.1.2.3. Clean Copy

11.2.2.1.3. Thomaston Board of Education Policy 4212.42 - Personnel - Certified/Non-Certified - Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers

11.2.2.1.3.1. Current Policy

11.2.2.1.3.2. Attorney Marked Up Copy

11.2.2.1.3.3. Clean Copy

11.2.2.1.4. Thomaston Board of Education Policy 4218.231 - Personnel - Certified/Non-Certified - Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco

11.2.2.1.4.1. Current Policy

11.2.2.1.4.2. Attorney Marked Up Copy

11.2.2.1.4.3. Clean Copy

11.2.3. First Read Items - None

11.2.4. Second Read Items

11.2.4.1. Thomaston Board of Education Policy 5132 - Students - Dress and Grooming

11.2.4.1.1. Current Policy

11.2.4.1.2. Marked Up Copy (for post-pandemic circumstances)

11.2.4.1.3. Clean Copy (for post-pandemic circumstances)

11.2.5. Action Items

11.2.5.1. Policy 6172.3 - Home Schooling - Equivalent Education Under Parental Direction - Final Draft (clean copy)

**Matthew VanOrmer motioned and Steven Carr seconded to accept/approve Policy 6172.3 as presented.**

Discussion: None  
Opposed: None  
Abstain: None  
Motion Carried: 9-0-0

11.2.5.2. Policy 3541.35 School Bus Incident Report to Parents - Current Policy

11.2.5.2.1. Policy 3541.35 School Bus Incident Report to Parents - Marked Up Copy (proposed changes)

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**Matthew VanOrmer motioned and Steven Carr seconded to accept/approve Policy 3541.35 as presented.**

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 9-0-0

11.2.5.3. Policy 5131.6 - Drugs, Tobacco, Alcohol - Current Policy

11.2.5.3.1. Policy 5131.6 Drugs, Tobacco, Alcohol - Marked Up Copy (proposed changes)

**Matthew VanOrmer motioned and Steven Carr seconded to accept/approve Policy 5131.6 as presented.**

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 9-0-0

## **12. Adjournment**

**Matthew VanOrmer motioned and Frank Treglia seconded to adjourn the meeting.**

**Chairperson Roxy Fainer adjourned the meeting at 8:10pm.**