

**Thomaston Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Thomaston Town Hall, Meeting Room One
June 8, 2009
7:00 p.m.**



Minutes

Present :

Laurie Barrett, Deborah April, Beth Yaffe, Lucy Santopietro, Steve Catania, Joanne Gilland, Holly Herbert, Cheryl Roberts, and Laura Rieley

Absent:

Student Representative, Adam Scheppard

Also Present:

Superintendent, Lynda Mitchell; Business Manager, Sue Laone; Board Clerk, Patricia George; High School Principal, James Wenker; High School Vice Principal, John Perrucci; Black Rock School Principal, Paul Johnson; Center School Principal, James Diorio; Pupil Services Director, Nancy Schnyer; and Student Board Representative, Nick Guertin

I. Establishment of a quorum and call to order:

Chairperson, Laurie Barrett established a quorum and called to order the Regular Meeting of the Thomaston Board of Education at 7:03 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance:

Student Board Representative, Nick Guertin, led the pledge of allegiance.

III. Approval of Agenda:

On a motion made by Deborah April and seconded by Beth Yaffe to approve/accept the agenda as presented; motion carried unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes:

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education dated Monday, May 11, 2009

On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Deborah April to approve/accept the Board of Education minutes as presented; Steve Catania abstains; motion carried.

V. Student Presentation: n/a

VI. Public Participation:

Heidi Laus
5B Eastfarms Road
Torrington, CT

Maintains that Vice Principal, John Perrucci, remain at the high school

Renee Wojtczak
346 Church Hill
Woodbury, CT

Her position was that Mr. Johnson remain at Black Rock School

Joyce Knowlton
1009 Hickory Hill Road
Thomaston, CT

Proposed the idea of a furlough to save teaching positions

Beth Defiore
103 Woodbridge Lane
Thomaston, CT

Concerned about the proposed cuts in the Language program at the high school

Colette Norton
443 East Main Street
Thomaston, CT

Her concerns addressed the cost in re-aligning administrators; i.e. letterhead, business cards, etc.

Kim Foss
45 Bluetrail Drive
Thomaston, CT

A teacher in the New Milford School System, Ms. Foss proposed condensing the school calendar to save dollars.

Teresa Adkins
2 Branch Road, Apt 1A
Thomaston, CT

Supports Mr. Perrucci remaining at the High School where he is respected by the students

Nicholas Guertin
177 Valley View Road
Thomaston, CT

Nick echoed the sentiments of the audience with regards to keeping administrators in their current assignments. In addition, he had concerns

relating to cuts in Languages at the high school for the purpose of college entrance.

Marianne Dwan
20 Randolph Avenue
Thomaston, CT

Ms. Dwan addressed the proposed cuts in Languages at the High School

Kelly Powell
267 Reynolds Bridge Road
Thomaston, CT

Ms. Powell did not support the proposed cuts in music and art at Black Rock School

Michele Rainville
209 Jackson Street
Thomaston, CT

Does not support the proposed realignment of administrators or cuts in Languages.

Frank Treglia
222 Clay Street
Thomaston, CT

Does not support administrator moves

Kristin O'Sullivan
81 Bluetrail Drive
Thomaston, CT

Does not support the proposed realignment of administrators

Tim Scatena
67 Patricia Lane
Thomaston, CT

Mr. Scatena feels Mr. Johnson is fantastic as the administrator at Black Rock School

Dave Colavecchio
52 Lynnrch Drive West
Thomaston, CT

Does not support the proposed realignment of administrators

Scott Stevenson
363 D. Welton Way
Thomaston, CT

Does not support the proposed realignment of administrators

Lisa Foschini
206 Cedar Mountain Road
Thomaston, CT

Does not support the proposed realignment of administrators

Carol Johnson
252 Litchfield Street
Thomaston, CT

Felt the Board should look at “qualifications” not “certifications”

Therese Kepler
19 Thompson Terrace
Thomaston, CT

Viewed the realignment of administrators as a political move

Marie Eldridge
131 Edwin Lane
Thomaston, CT

At a time where consistency is required, Ms. Eldridge felt that there would be inconsistency in student discipline if there were two administrators sharing the responsibility.

BOARD MOTION

On a motion made by Deborah April and seconded by Joanne Gilland to move XII. Standing Committee Reports, Item F, Transportation, subsection 1, Two Schools/One Mission – 2009/2010 Bus Routes and Schedule to immediately follow VI. Public Participation; motion carried unanimously.

XIII. Standing Committee Reports

F. Transportation

1. Two Schools/One Mission 2009/2010 Bus Routes and Schedule

Business Manager, Sue Laone, provided a brief overview of the proposed 2009/2010

bus transportation. She noted that the proposal would save the district approximately \$30,000 to \$35,000. An e-mail address (transportation@thomastonschools.org) has been established to facilitate transportation issues.

VII. Communications:

On a motion made by Joanne Gilland and seconded by Deborah April to approve/accept Communications as presented; motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Superintendent's Report

- A. Employee of the Month: n/a
- B. Student of the Month: Jacob Silver was honored as the Student of the Month for June. Superintendent Mitchell referred to Jacob as an "out of the box" student. She noted some items from his resume highlighting his involvement in the Innovation Academy.
- C. Summer Writing Workshops: as presented
- D. Goals for 2007/2009: as presented

IX. Business Manager's Report:

- A. Title I Stimulus Funds
Business Manager, Sue Laone, asked the Board for a direction with regards to the Title I Stimulus Funds. The Board felt that the administrators' recommendations should be followed.

X. School Principals and Pupil Services Director's Reports:

A. Pupil Service Director, Nancy Schnyer

Ms. Schnyer was pleased to announce the hiring of Sarah Sokolski, a Speech Pathologist, for the 2009/2010 school year. By hiring Sarah, as opposed to utilizing contracted services, the district should realize a \$30,000 savings. In addition, Ms. Schnyer reported that the 44 page NAEYC application has been completed.

B. High School Principal, James Wenker: written, as presented

C. Thomaston Center School Principal, James Diorio

Principal Diorio reported that the renovation project continues at the Center School with the finishing off of the auditorium. Controls for ventilation are scheduled for work. He also reported that the "Power School" presentation, a replacement for the existing SASI software, was well received.

D. Black Rock School Principal, Paul Johnson

Mr. Johnson publicly thanked Mrs. Kristin O'Sullivan and her daughters for the planter in memory of Jay Conaghan, a former principal. He also highlighted several recent events at the school; Music Teacher, Tim Brandt's recorder concerts and the Beach and Book Bash which was funded by the Enrichment Fund.

XI. Student Representatives' Reports:

Student Representative, Nick Guertin, apologized for his absence at last month's meeting suggesting the appointment of alternates. His topics

included student elections and the growing request for use of Ipods at the school.

XII. Standing Committee Reports:

A. Budget:

1 & 2

On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Deborah April to approve/accept the budget expenditures and monthly transfers as presented; motion carried unanimously.

3. Athletics

Principal Diorio, speaking on behalf of the Administrators', asked that the Board Members reconsider the \$40,000 put back into the athletic budget as a means to save another academic cut. The majority of the Board members felt the issue was had been addressed and settled at prior Board meetings.

B. Curriculum/Instruction:

No report

C. Maintenance/Facilities:

No report

D. Technology: n/a

E. Personnel:

On a motion made by Deborah April and seconded by Beth Yaffe to empower the Superintendent to act and contract with district personnel including non-renewed teachers over the summer; motion carried unanimously.

F. Transportation:

Amended to follow VI. Public Participation

G. Athletics:

No report

H. Long Range Task Force/Building Committee:

No report

I. Policy:

No Report

J. Government Relations:

No report

K. Affiliations:

No report

XIII. Old Business:

A. Goals for 2009 to 2011

It was the consensus of the Board to invite representatives from CABA to assist with establishing goals for the 2009 to 2011.

XIV. New Business:

None

XV: Items for Future Agendas:

None

XVI. Executive Session:

XVII. Adjournment:

On a motion made by Deborah April and seconded by Beth Yaffe to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education at 8:56 p.m.; motion carried unanimously.