

**Thomaston Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Thomaston Town Hall
Meeting Room One
October 19, 2009
7:00 p.m.**



Minutes

Present: Laurie Barrett, Deborah April, Beth Yaffe, *Lucy Santopietro (arrived 7:04 p.m.), Steve Catania, Joanne Gilland, Holly Herbert and Laura Rieley

Absent: n/a

Also Present: Superintendent, Lynda Mitchell; Business Manager, Susan Laone; Board Clerk,
Patricia George; Interim High School Principal, John Perrucci; Thomaston Center School Principal, James Diorio; Pupil Services Director, Nancy Schnyer; and School Board Representatives Alexander Lee and Leah Miller

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:

Board Chair, Laurie Barrett, led the pledge of allegiance.

III. Approval of Agenda:

On a motion made by Beth Yaffe and seconded by Deborah April to approve/accept the agenda as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

*(Lucy Santopietro arrived 7:04 p.m.)

IV. Approval of Minutes:

Regular Meeting of September 14, 2009

On a motion made by Beth Yaffe and seconded by Deborah April to approve/accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education dated September 14, 2009; no further discussion; Steve Catania abstained; motion carried unanimously.

Special Meeting of October 8, 2009

On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Deborah April to approve/accept the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education dated October 8, 2009; no further discussion; Beth Yaffe and Steve Catania abstained; motion carried unanimously.

V. **Student Presentations:** n/a

VI. **Public Participation:** n/a

VII. **Communications:**

A. New Hires: n/a

B. Resignations: n/a

C. Athletics: n/a

D. Transfers: n/a

E. Leave of Absence:

On a motion made by Beth Yaffe and seconded by Deborah April to approve/accept the leave of absence as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

F. Field Trips:

On a motion made by Beth Yaffe and seconded by Deborah April to approve/accept field trips as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

G. Correspondence:

Informational; as presented.

VIII. **Superintendent's Report**

- A. Student of the month, Brian Burr: Superintendent Mitchell noted that the pool of Rotary students consists of very accomplished individuals, bringing Brian's name to the forefront as one of those students. Reading from his resume, Mrs. Mitchell shared some his accomplishments: Class President, Student Council President, and the distinction of being second in his class. Mrs. Mitchell concluded by stating that he is an outstanding young man.
- B. Medical Update: Superintendent Mitchell reviewed several pieces of correspondence that were made available to parents regarding H1N1.
- C. Education Connection Serving Thomaston: Information for the Board to read at their leisure.
- D. Teacher of the Year (T.O.Y.) reception: Superintendent Mitchell announced Thomaston's Teacher of the Year as Tammy Dayton, a teacher at Black Rock School. Plans are to hold a light reception in her honor at the November 9, 2009 Board meeting.

- E. "Two Schools, One Mission": Ms. Mitchell deferred to Mr. Diorio to update the Board on the "Two Schools, One Mission" initiative. Mr. Diorio indicated that he and Mr. Johnson continue to meet on a regular basis. Recently, their meetings addressed programs and instruction, the implementation of an after school learning academy and professional development. Mr. Diorio also noted that the shared staff (Art and Music) is working out as well, as is the newly implemented two-tiered bus coordination.
- F. Public Relations:
Superintendent Mitchell met at the end of the summer with faculty and staff and discussed the idea of forming a public relations committee. Two public relation segments evolved from the discussions, an internal and community based piece. The motive is to open up communications for staff, Board members, administrators and members of the community, and continue to answer questions.

IX. Business Manager's Report:

- A. Update on Current Operations:
Business Manager, Sue Laone, anticipates a freeze early in the year, most likely by the end of November. Partially in light of the excess cost reimbursement set for 70%, as opposed to the nearly 100% reimbursement granted in the past.

She also reported that the budget process has begun for the 2010/2011 school year. Lastly, after several meetings, it was concluded that the bus transportation connection for Maloney Magnet school students would not be feasible.

X. Administrators' Reports:

- A. Director of Pupil Services, Nancy Schnyer
Ms. Schnyer's oral report included the following:
- NAEYC – received confirmation of a site visit by an assessor from Washington D.C. that will occur by 11-30-09
 - Noted the district has applied for and received an extension on the R.T.I. process which needs to be completed by June 2010
 - Currently working to insure that the Last Links testing has been completed for English Language Learners
- B. Interim High School Principal, John Perrucci
Several items on Mr. Perrucci's written report were highlighted including
- Reported the NEASC Special Report was submitted on time
 - Pleased with the progress of RTI (Response to Intervention)
 - Noted that the Second Step program is in full operation

- Implementing and restructuring Special Education staff to bolster CMT scores
- C. Thomaston Center School Principal, James Diorio: written only, no further discussion
- D. Black Rock School Principal, Paul Johnson: written only

XI. Student Representatives' Reports:

Newly appointed student representatives Alexander Lee and Leah Miller provided Board reports. Topics covered included Homecoming and several future service projects including a food drive and letters to Veterans.

XII. Standing Committee Reports:

- A. Budget:
On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Steve Catania to approve/accept the budget expenditures and transfers as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.
- B. Curriculum/Instruction:
"Progress with Paula"
High School Interim Principal, John Perrucci, stated that Paula Banas, the district's data analysis consultant, is worth every penny and is very easy to work with. Members of the high school staff meet at a specific time every week to discuss, review and implement data analysis. He is very impressed that the teachers' investment is 100% and feels it continues to be very productive.
- C. Maintenance/Facilities:
No Report
- D. Technology:
No Report
- E. Personnel:
No Report
- F. Transportation:
No Report
- 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:

Board member, Deborah April, asked that an Honor Roll policy status be placed on a future agenda.

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 8:05 p.m.; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.