

Minutes
THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting

Thomaston Town Hall – Teen Center

Date: Monday, March 8, 2010

7:00 p.m.



Members: Laurie Barrett, Chair; Beth Yaffe, Vice Chair; Lucy Santopietro, Secretary; Laura Rieley, Treasurer; Joanne Gilland, Holly Herbert, Roxy Fainer, George Counter and Steve Catania, Members

Minutes

Present: Laurie Barrett, Lucy Santopietro, Joanne Gilland, Holly Herbert, Laura Rieley, George Counter, Roxy Fainer

Absent: Beth Yaffe and Steve Catania

Also Present: Superintendent, Lynda Mitchell; Board Clerk, Patricia George; Pupil Services Director, Nancy Schnyer; Thomaston Center School Principal, James Diorio; Black Rock School Principal, Paul Johnson; High School Principal, John Perrucci; Business Manager, Sue Laone; 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 7:11 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance:

Board Chair Laurie Barrett led the pledge of allegiance.

III. Approval of Agenda:

On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Holly Herbert to approve/accept the agenda with the following amendments:

- Move IX. Communications, subsection F. Field Trips, prior to item V.
- Under XIII. Standing Committee Reports, subsection F. Transportation, add an item Worhunsky Bus Update by Steve Worhunsky and Lori Foley
- Under XV. New Business, add an item “A” Lucy Santopietro - update from teachers at Black Rock School and Thomaston Center School.

No further discussion, motion carried unanimously

IV. Approval of Minutes:

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education dated February 8, 2010

On a motion made by George Counter and seconded by Lucy Santopietro to approve/accept the minutes as presented; no further discussion; Joanne Gilland abstained; motion carried unanimously.

Special Meeting of the Board of Education dated February 22, 2010

On a motion made by George Counter and seconded by Holly Herbert to approve/accept the minutes as presented; no further discussions; Lucy Santopietro and Laura Rieley abstained; motion carried unanimously.

Special Meeting of the Board of Education dated February 24, 2010

On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by George Counter to approve/accept the minutes as presented; no further discussions; Laura Rieley abstained; motion carried unanimously.

V. Board Member/TEAM Participant Recognition:

Kathy Valla, a teacher at Thomaston Center School and the TEAM Coordinator, was asked to come forward and talk on behalf of the newly implemented TEAM program. Certificates of recognition and appreciation were provided for each of the TEAM participants.

Ms. Valla explained that the BEST program is no longer in existence, which required first and second year teachers to do a portfolio, a one time assessment. After many years of scoring the portfolios, she, along with others in her capacity, did not feel that this type of assessment actually helped teachers. She felt that the TEAM program creates a new way to support teachers with professional growth. Under the newly implemented program, the mentor has a bigger role and a lot more work she said. Mentors being recognized included Patricia Keparutis, Bill Dwan, Rick Wilson, Nanette Maturi, Leslie Bischoff, Marta VanHoose, Patricia Kearns, as well as Kathy Valla.

March has been noted by CABA as Board Appreciation Month. Superintendent Mitchell recognized the Board members for their contributions and commitment to the education of students. She read from a certificate of appreciation provided by the First Selectman's office, which was then distributed to each member.

A light reception was held for both TEAM mentors and Board members prior to the start of the regular board meeting.

**** Communications: Subsection F. Field Trips: (Agenda amended)**

Two field trips were brought to the Board for approval, Woods Art Center in Woodstock New York by Rick Wilson and Joan Batten and Paris and the Riviera by Pat Kearns and Sue Palomba.

Ms. Kearns and Ms. Palomba attended the meeting to discuss their planned field trip, which is scheduled for April 14, 2011. Ms. Kearns highlighted some of the field trip material which was included in the Board packet.

On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Holly Herbert to approve/accept the field trips as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

VI. Guest(s) of the Board:

During the February board meeting, discussions were had regarding the number of unfunded state mandates and their effect on education budgets. Several Board members felt that inviting state representatives to the March meeting may shed some light on the difficulties that municipalities are facing with these unfunded mandates.

Representative Joe Piscopo accepted the invitation and was on-site for questions and answers. He stated that he was not a proponent of state mandates.

VII. Student Representatives' Board Reports:

Alex and Leah gave reports on events at the high school. Several of the events highlighted were an upcoming dodge ball tournament, a recent pep rally, cheerleading competition scheduled for the weekend, as well as the recent spirit week hallway contest judging. The senior class won the contest with their "Game of Life" theme.

VIII. Public Participation:

No report

IX. Communications:

- F. Field trips amended to follow Item 5 * *
- G. Correspondence: as presented

X. Superintendent's Report:

- A. Student of the month: Superintendent Mitchell spoke to the Board about Matt Dwan, Thomaston's student of the month for February. She said that Matt is an artist and a scholar, holds class offices, is congenial and positive and a wonderful representative for the school system.
- B. CABE District Goals Workshop (informational/as presented)
- C. Thomaston Substance Abuse Prevention Council
The Thomaston Substance Abuse Prevention Council is sponsoring A "Bowl Free" night for families on Monday, March 15th.

XI. Business Manager's Report:

No Report

XII. Administrators' Reports:

- A. Pupil Services Director, Nancy Schnyer
Ms. Schnyer discussed the summer program collaboration between Terryville and Thomaston Pupil Services' departments. The summer program is combined between the two districts to share costs and staff.
- B. High School Principal, John Perrucci
Principal Perrucci highlighted the information in his written report specifically grade reporting. Additionally, Business Manager Sue Laone wanted to note that the boiler at the high school is defunct. The parts are under warranty, but there are labor costs associated with the repair.
- C. Thomaston Center School Principal, James Diorio
Principal Diorio was pleased to announce that renovations of the auditorium are underway at the Center school. All 450 chairs have been removed and plans are to have them reupholstered.
- D. Black Rock School Principal, Paul Johnson
Principal Johnson stated that he and Principal Diorio were currently working on a K-6 standards based report card.

XIII. Standing Committee Reports:

A. Budget Expenditures:

On a motion made by Laura Rieley and seconded by Lucy Santopietro to approve/accept the budget expenditures as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

E. Personnel: (non-tenured teachers)

On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by George Counter to approve/accept the receipt of and action upon recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools concerning the institution of teacher non-renewals pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151. Non-renewals are due to possible budget constraints; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

F. Transportation: (agenda amended to include)

Steve Worhunsky and Lori Foley, representatives of the Worhunsky School Bus Transportation were present to discuss the current contract.

Earlier in the week, Superintendent Mitchell and Business Manager Sue Laone met with both Steve and Lori to discuss the current contract. At that meeting, Mr. Worhunsky agreed to a zero percent increase in year one, the increase in years two and three would be based on the consumer price index with a cap of 5.5%. However, there are grant/rebate programs that the district and Worhunsky will be investigating that may decrease costs in year two.

XIV. Old Business:

A. Track Update

Committee liaison, George Counter, was not able to attend the last meeting but indicated that there was an article in a recent paper.

XV. New Business: no report

XVI. Items for Future Agendas: n/a

XVII. Executive Session:

A motion was made by Holly Herbert, seconded by Lucy Santopietro to move into executive session at 9:00 p.m.; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously. The following people entered into executive session to discuss matters relating to strategy and negotiations with respect to collective bargaining:

Laurie Barrett, Board Chair
Roxy Fainer, Member
Laura Rieley, Member
George Counter, Member
Holly Herbert, Member
Joanne Gilland, Member
Lucy Santopietro, Member
Lynda Mitchell, Superintendent
Susan Laone, Business Manager

Public Session:

Motion made by Joanne Gilland and seconded by Roxy Fainer to move to public session at 9:54 p.m., no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

Board Motion:

None

XVIII. Adjournment:

On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Laurie Rieley to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education at 9:55 p.m.; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.