

Minutes
THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting

Thomaston Town Hall – Meeting Room One

Date: Monday, December 13, 2010

7:00 p.m.



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

Minutes

Present: Laurie Barrett, George Counter, Beth Keutzer, Lucy Santopietro, Joanne Gilland, Holly Herbert and Laura Rieley

Absent: Steve Catania and Roxy Fainer

Also Present: Superintendent, Lynda Mitchell; Business Manager, Sue Laone; Pupil Services Director, Nancy Schnyer; Black Rock School/Thomaston Center School Administrators, Anne Uberti and Alisha Lyons; High School Administrators, John Perrucci and Jonathan Kozlak; Board Clerk, Patricia George; and Student Representatives Curtis Dunn and Alex Lee

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 7:07 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance:

Student Representatives led the pledge of allegiance.

III. Approval of Agenda:

On a motion made by Beth Keutzer and seconded by Lucy Santopietro to approve/accept the agenda with the following amendment:

To move X. Standing Committee Reports, subsection E. Maintenance/Facilities to follow V. Student Representative Reports and add an item 1. Energy Audit/First Selectman, Ed Mone under the caption

No further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes:

On a motion made by George Counter and seconded by Holly Herbert to approve/accept the Regular Minutes of the Board of Education dated Monday, November 8, 2010; no further discussion; Joanne Gilland, Beth Keutzer and Lucy Santopietro abstain; motion carried.

V. Student Representatives' Reports:

Student Representatives Alex Lee and Curtis Dunn reported on upcoming activities at the High school including a Ping Pong tournament, a Sweater Day which will benefit the food pantry, and a school dance.

Amendment:

Maintenance/Facilities:

1. Energy Audits/First Selectman Ed Mone

First Selectman Ed Mone addressed the Board regarding energy audits. The town has interviewed three energy auditing companies and felt it would behoove the Board of Education to follow suit.

The companies review all energy consuming systems in the district and determine if any of the systems could be upgraded to more energy efficient technology. The company(ies) would provide the district with a detailed audit including the energy savings that could be realized. All costs associated with the project would be paid for out of the projected energy savings once they are realized. There are no upfront costs for the project. (ECG Engineering's program).

Business Manager, Sue Laone shared with Mr. Mone that the Board did previously have one of these firms, ECG Engineering, speak to the Board and provide information on how the program is implemented.

It was the Board's consensus to have minimally, the audits performed on the three schools. A vote to approve/accept on this project is scheduled for the January 2011 Board meeting.

VI. Communications:

On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Beth Keutzer to approve/accept the new hires and resignations as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

VII. Superintendent's Report:

A. Student of the Month for November, Stephen Mondak

B. Student of the Month for December, Jordan Carr

Superintendent Mitchell indicated that both students of the month were very similar in that they are both high achievers, class leaders, involved in a number of activities and extremely high performers. She then highlighted a few activities from their individual resumes.

C. Small District Committee – CAPSS

Superintendent Mitchell currently serves on this committee and will bring information to the board as the committee moves forward.

VIII. Business Manager's Report: n/a

IX. Administrators' Reports:

A. Pupil Services Director, Nancy Schnyer

As part of her oral report, Ms. Schnyer talked about the following:

- Lice protocol and establishing policy that will incorporate it;
- Changes made by the CDC regarding the flu;
- A resource manual created for the Thomaston School District by Social Worker Rose McLaughlin and intern Jessica Marini. The manual contains relevant resources that anyone might need in the social work arena, who to call and under certain circumstances.

- B. High School Principal, John Perrucci
Principal Perrucci noted that he will offer an impact study on the grading policy during the January BoE meeting. He deferred to Assistant Principal Kozlak, who offered a few words on the upcoming “Challenge Day” – an anti bullying program scheduled for January 4th, 5th and 6th. Mr. Kozlak invited board members to participate.
- C. Two Schools Principal (BRS and TCS), Anne Uberti
Prior to Ms. Uberti speaking, Board Chair Laurie Barrett wanted to publicly acknowledge the donations of hats, scarves, and mittens from the Center School giving tree program.

Ms. Uberti’s oral report included information on the:

- recent, temporary loss of phone service at Black Rock School;
- interviews for the Media Center position;
- status of the pipe burst in the gym ceiling at Center School;
- and “recess before lunch” initiative.

X. Standing Committee Reports:

- A. Budget:
1. Budget Expenditures
On a motion made by Laura Rieley and seconded by Lucy Santopietro to approve/accept the y-t-d expenditures as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.
 2. Monthly Transfers n/a
- B. Curriculum and Instruction:
1. Math Curriculum
On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Holly Herbert to approve/accept the Math Curriculum as previously submitted, no further discussion, Beth Keutzer abstains, motion carried unanimously.
- C. Maintenance/Facilities: n/a
- D. Technology: n/a
- E. Personnel: n/a
- F. Transportation: n/a
- G. Athletics: n/a
- H. Long Range Task Force/Building Committee: n/a

I. Policy:
1. Lice Protocol
The lice protocol was presented to incorporate into Board Policy. The vote to approve/accept is being tabled to January's meeting in order to allow a second read by the Board.

J. Government Relations: n/a

K. Affiliations: n/a

L. Legislation: n/a

XI. Public Participation: n/a

XII. Old Business:

XIII. New Business:

XIV. Items for Future Agendas:

- A. Teacher Retention requested by Beth Keutzer
- B. Verbal update on the Berkshire League requested of Principal Perrucci by Board member George Counter

XV. Executive Session:

A motion was made by Beth Keutzer, seconded by Lucy Santopietro to move into executive session at 8:02 p.m.; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously. The following people entered into executive session to discuss the employment, performance, or evaluation of an employee:

Attorney for the Board, Matt Curtin
Tim Oppenheimer, Staff Representative, Council 4 AFSCME
Superintendent, Lynda Mitchell
Board Chair, Laurie Barrett
Board Vice Chair, Beth Keutzer
George Counter
Lucy Santopietro
Joanne Gilland
Holly Herbert
Laura Rieley

Public Session

A motion was made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Holly Herbert to move to public session at 8:13 p.m., no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

XVI. Adjournment:

On a motion made by Beth Keutzer and seconded by Joanne Gilland to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education at 8:15 p.m.; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.