

**Minutes**  
**THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Regular Meeting**

Thomaston Town Hall – Teen Center

Date: Monday, March 14, 2011

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, Lucy Santopietro (\*arrived 7:19 p.m.), Beth Keutzer, Roxy Fainer, Joanne Gilland and Laura Rieley

**Absent:** George Counter, Holly Herbert and Steve Catania

**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 Alexander 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 7:02 p.m.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance:**

Laurie Barrett led the pledge of allegiance.

**III. Approval of Agenda:**

On a motion made by Roxy Fainer and seconded by Beth Keutzer to approve/accept the agenda with the following amendments:

Under VIII. Communications, Subsection A: New Hires, add:

1. Rebecca Scoville, Long term Substitute, Grade 3, effective March 7, 2011
2. Shannon Betts, Long term Substitute to Media Center Specialist upon certification, effective March 21, 2011
3. A vote to accept/approve

Under VIII. Communications, Subsection B: Resignations:

1. Change James Angell's resignation date "to" effective March 11, 2011
2. Add an item #2, Sarah Kushwara, English Teacher, Thomaston High School, effective with the conclusion of the 2010/2011 school year

Under XIV: Old Business, Item #A, Teacher Retention

1. Remove

Under XVI: Items for Future Agendas

1. Add an item #1, Teacher Retention

No further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

**IV. Approval of Minutes:**

On a motion made by Roxy Fainer and seconded by Joanne Gilland to approve/accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education dated Monday, February 14, 2011; no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

**V. Student Presentations:**

Curtis Dunn's report included the recent filming of a "Cool Schools" segment which will be airing this Friday. He also noted that the Senior class is, upon approval, sponsoring a Senior class Lock In.

Alex Lee reported on behalf of the Student Council. The Student Council will be holding a Ping Pong tournament in the near future.

**VI. Board/Mentor Recognition:**

Kathy Valla, a teacher at Thomaston Center School and the TEAM (Teacher Education and Mentoring) Coordinator, was asked to come forward and offer information regarding the program. TEAM, an acronym for Teacher Education and Mentoring is a 5 module program for the induction of beginning teachers. Certificates of recognition and appreciation were provided for each of the mentors.

March has been noted by CAGE 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 in their honor.

**VII. Healthy Food Certification**

On a motion made by Beth Keutzer and seconded by Roxy Fainer to approve/accept Section 2 Certification Statement of the Healthy Food Certification Statement for July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012 which reads:

On behalf of the Thomaston Board of Education and pursuant to section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes:

***Section 2 Certification Statement:*** "hereby certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the school(s) under our jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education will meet said standards during the period of July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012. Such certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises, whether or not school sponsored.

No further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

On a motion made by Beth Keutzer and seconded by Roxy Fainer to approve/accept Section 3 Exemption Statement of the Healthy Food Certification Statement for July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012 which reads:

**Section 3 Exemption Statement:** .....hereby acknowledges that the Board of Education or governing authority *will* exclude from certification food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards, provided that (1) such food is sold in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend, (2) such sale is at the location of the event, and (3) such food is not sold from a vending machine or school store.

No further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

\*Lucy Santopietro arrived 7:19 p.m.

#### **VIII. Communications:**

On a motion made by Beth Keutzer and seconded by Roxy Fainer to approve/accept Communications as presented;

##### Further Discussion:

Board member Roxy Fainer asked who would be replacing James Angell for the remainder of the school year. Mr. Angell, a science teacher at the high school, resigned from his position on March 11, 2011. Principal Perrucci indicated that a prior applicant, Kenneth Chausse, is currently teaching the classes and that a job posting had been generated.

Board member Joanne Gilland asked that Superintendent Mitchell elaborate on a piece of correspondence by Vita West Muir of the Litchfield Jazz Festival.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### **IX. Superintendent's Report:**

- A. Student of the Month for March – Mairead Carr: Superintendent Mitchell noted that Mairead's sister was student of the month for February. She continued by stating that Mairead is an outstanding student with a commendable academic record. A high academic performer, she has received a host of awards including in the areas of French and World Civilization. She has volunteered in the district and is President of the National Honor Society. Ms. Mitchell concluded by stating that Mairead is very accomplished and provided a very nice presentation to the Rotary.
- B. Futures Report: The proposal emanated from recent "regionalization" meetings with Wolcott and Terryville. The proposal will provide clinical and educational services analysis to Thomaston, Wolcott and Plymouth in the area of special education. Their mission involves looking at every piece of the district's special education design and to provide an analysis. The goal is to save the district money, through cooperative services. The cost will be paid through a grant.
- C. Exit Interviews  
Exit interviews will continue to be conducted as they arise.
- D. Building Project/Capital Improvement  
Superintendent Mitchell deferred to Business Manager Sue Laone. Ms. Laone indicated that the Capital Improvement Committee had asked the Board of

Education to provide a “punch list” on what had and had not been done at the Center School. They also asked that a timeline be established for a possible town wide bonding. Ms. Laone worked off the “shovel ready” list that former Selectman Maura Martin had established. She indicated that between the three schools, the district was looking at a ten million dollar figure.

Calendar of Events: The following events were informational only

- E. Prevention Council/Bowling Night, March 21st
- F. Spelling Bee, March 26<sup>th</sup>
- G. Public Relations Meeting, March 28th

**X. Business Manager’s Report: n/a**

**XI. Administrators’ Reports:**

- A. Pupil Services Director, Nancy Schnyer

The following information was provided in Ms. Schnyer’s oral report:

- Reallocating Special Education resources in the district
- Reinstating the Life Skills program at the high school
- Moving staff to Black Rock School to accommodate an Autistic preschool student
- Planning Summer School sessions with Plymouth

Ms. Schnyer also indicated that the PATH’s Program at the high school is “alive and healthy” with 10 students, both special education and regular education, in the population.

- B. High School Principal, John Perrucci

Mr. Perrucci’s oral report included comments on:

- The pre-taping of “Cool Schools” which is set to air on Friday,
- He felt that the district was ready to move forward with the PowerSchool software
- Asked the Board to review and approve several new courses for the high school
- Addressed the continuing problems with the boiler at the high school
- The implementation of a Women’s Club brought forward by several female students

The Boiler:

To elaborate, Mr. Perrucci indicated that the boiler was repaired. Once started, however, the pump failed. The pump, which is not part of the boiler, remains offline until it can be repaired with an associated cost of \$1600.

- C. BRS/TCS Principal, Anne Uberti

Several pieces of information brought forward by Ms. Uberti included:

- The recent St. Judes telethon in Torrington. Ms. Boyles, a music teacher in the district, was publicly thanked for her contributions
- The Annual Math Night

- Kindergarten Registration
- The hiring of a Library Media Specialist

## **XII. Standing Committee Reports:**

### A. Budget:

1. Summary by Budget Line Y-T-D expenditures
2. Budget Line Transfers

On a motion made by Laura Rieley and seconded by Lucy Santopietro to approve/accept the Summary by Budget Line Y-T-D expenditures and Budget Line Transfers as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

### B. Curriculum and Instruction:

1. On a motion made by Joanne Gilland and seconded by Lucy Santopietro to approve/accept the Fashion Merchandising and Design course; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.
2. Other courses brought forward for future approval included:
  - Exposition and Argument
  - World Literature
  - AP Physics B

The Board indicated that Principal Perrucci move forward with establishing curriculum for Exposition and Argument as well as World Literature. AP Physics B is scheduled for an approval at April's Board meeting.

### C. Maintenance/Facilities: n/a

### D. Technology: n/a

### E. Personnel:

1. On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Beth Keutzer 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; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

### F. Transportation: n/a

### G. Athletics: n/a

### H. Long Range Task Force/Building Committee: n/a

### I. Policy: n/a

### J. Government Relations: n/a

### K. Affiliations: n/a

### L. Legislation: n/a

**XIII. Public Participation:**

Deborah April  
388 Valley View Road  
Thomaston

Ms. April expressed her concern about a recent change in her son's schedule. She felt that the changes should have been done in September, not three weeks into the third marking period.

Kathy Thompson  
88 Trestle Lane  
Thomaston

Ms. Thompson was concerned about the duplication of services between the state and what the Futures Education would offer.

**XIV. Old Business:**

- A. Teacher Retention (amended to remove as an item)
- B. Televised Board Meetings  
Superintendent Mitchell indicated that she "hasn't given up yet" on implementing televised Board meetings. She feels that it is another means of reaching the public.
- C. Board of Education Goals Review
- D. Objectives: Reaching our Goals
- E. Metric Plan

Items C, D, and E go hand-in-hand. The Board of Education established goals and Ms. Mitchell would like to again bring them to the forefront.

**XV. New Business:**

**XVI. Items for Future Agendas:**

- A. Teacher Retention

**XVII. Executive Session: n/a**

**XVIII. Adjournment:**

On a motion made by Roxy Fainer and seconded by Lucy Santopietro to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education at 8:07 p.m.; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.