

Minutes
THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting

Thomaston Town Hall – Meeting Room One

Date: Monday, April 11, 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, George Counter, Beth Keutzer, Roxy Fainer, Steve Catania, Joanne Gilland, Holly Herbert, Laura Rieley

Absent: Lucy Santopietro, Student Representative Curtis Dunn

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 Administrator, John Perrucci; Board Clerk, Patricia George; and Student Representative 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 7:04 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance:

Student Representative, Alexander Lee led the pledge of allegiance.

III. Approval of Agenda:

On a motion made by Roxy Fainer and seconded by Steve Catania to approve/accept the agenda as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes:

On a motion made by Joanne Gilland and seconded by Laura Rieley to approve/accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education dated Monday, March 14, 2011; no further discussion; Steve Catania, George Counter, and Holly Herbert abstain; motion carried.

V. Student Representatives' Reports:

Student Representative Alexander Lee reported on the upcoming fundraising event, Mr. T.H.S., which is scheduled for Saturday, May 28th. The proceeds will be used for scholarships.

VI. Communications:

On a motion made by Beth Keutzer and seconded by Steve Catania to approve/accept all Communications as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

VII. Superintendent's Report:

- A. Student of the Month – Melissa Mohamed
Melissa will speak at a Rotary luncheon on Thursday, April 14th. Superintendent Mitchell will offer an overview at the next Board meeting.
- B. Teacher Retention
Superintendent Mitchell provided a handout to the Board members containing information on teacher retention. The report included information from a meeting of the State Board of Education, what the state and districts should do to retain teachers, and the responsibility of the Thomaston School district.
- C. Thomaston High School – “Womens’ Club”
Thomaston High School students, Miranda Belica and Kaitlyn Quirke, under the guidance of faculty member Sue Fuller, are organizing a women’s club, B.I.O. an acronym for Beauty Inside and Out. The focus of the club, which was inspired by Tyra Banks, a model and talk show host, is self-esteem and self-confidence in young women.

VIII. Business Manager's Report:

- A. Quarterly Report

Board member Roxy Fainer asked if Special Education would still incur a deficit with the reimbursement of the \$137,088 ECF funds (Excess Cost Funds). Business Manager Sue Laone responded that “yes, there still we be a deficit.”

George Counter made an inquiry regarding the implementation of a district school breakfast program, is such a program under consideration? Business Manager Sue Laone noted that Michael Allen, Food Services Director at Education Connection, brought the idea forward and that plans are to put him on the Administrators’ agenda in May for further discussion.

Principal Perrucci was asked to provide an update on the boilers at the high school. A brief overview followed:

Met with representatives from Burnham who acknowledged that they could not provide a reason why the boilers are breaking down. To remedy the situation, Burnham would meet their responsibility through the warranty by providing 17 sections for each boiler. If interested, the company will ship parts, 34 sections. The district would absorb the installation cost of approximately \$30,000. Mr. Perrucci said that options were limited:

1. Burnham to supply parts, labor is the district’s responsibility. Labor costs approximately \$30,000. However, a question arose, “are the new parts equally defective?”
2. Purchase new boilers at a cost of \$70,000 to \$100,000

Mr. Perrucci stressed the importance of having the work completed in the summer in order to avoid a building shut down next winter should the system completely fail.

Several Board members felt that the building committee should be contacted as the boilers were approved by that committee during the renovation project.

Superintendent Mitchell explained that the district does not have the money to complete the project and indicated that she may need to move forward in a direction with the Board of Finance.

The item will be placed on the May agenda for an update.

A brief discussion ensued regarding oil prices for the 11/12 school year.

IX. Administrators' Reports:

- A. Pupil Services Director, Nancy Schnyer
Ms. Schnyer's report this month encompassed information on transition for high school students 15 and older. The state has required the special education department to collect data and report that the district has implemented a program or plan post graduate. A form to collect the requested data was generated by her office and included in her written report.
- B. High School Principal, John Perrucci
Principal Perrucci had nothing to add to his written report however, questions were posed to him regarding the schedule changes planned for the high school.
- C. BRS/TCS: "Two Schools....One Mission", Anne Uberti
Ms. Uberti provided an oral report to the Board. She indicated that what administration is currently addressing at the two schools is a reflection of the work that was done and getting feedback i.e. schedule.

She also reported that the recent Kindergarten screening was a big success and the new Library Media Specialist, Shannon Betts is very busy organizing the Thomaston Center School library and is devising a floor plan that is conducive to a learning environment.

X. Standing Committee Reports:

- A. Budget:
 - 1. Summary by Budget Line Y-T-D expenditures
 - 2. Budget Line TransfersOn a motion made by Laura Rieley and seconded by George Counter to approve/accept the Budget Line Y-t-D expenditures in the amount of \$9,644,319.21 and Budget Line Transfers for March 2011; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.
- 3. Quarterly Update

Discussion: Board member George Counter asked if the \$10,780 roof snow removal bill was paid by the town. Business manger Sue Laone replied that they did not submit the bill to the town.

- B. Curriculum and Instruction:
 - 1. AP Physics BOn a motion made by Roxy Fainer and seconded by Steve Catania to approve/accept AP Physics B; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously. The course will be in place for the start of the new school year.

- C. Maintenance/Facilities:
1. Boilers – Thomaston High School (Provided earlier in report)
 2. Integrated Pest Management Plan
On a motion made by Roxy Fainer and seconded by Joanne Gilland to approve/accept the Pest Management Plan as presented;

Further Discussion

The district was recently audited by the State D.E. P. with regards to a Pest Management Plan. Business Manager Sue Laone indicated that the district has a “policy” in place but the district is also mandated by the state to have a “plan” in place. As part of the plan, a pest control company has been secured to visit the district once a month.

Motion carried unanimously.

- 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: n/a
- J. Government Relations: n/a
- K. Affiliations: n/a
- L. Legislation: n/a

XI. Public Participation:

Robby Piazzaroli
Reporter/Town Times Newspaper

Mr. Piazzaroli asked if the boilers would fall under the ECG energy audit which is currently underway.

XII. Old Business: n/a

XIII. New Business:

XIV. Items for Future Agendas:

- A. Social Networking Presentation (CABE/Policy)
Superintendent Mitchell recently attended a workshop at CABE regarding social networking sites. The associated goals would be investigating the legal issues surrounding the social networking, determining appropriate student and staff interactions if those exist, the potential use of social networking in the educational arena and a recommended review of policy.
- B. Two Schools Mission – Review/Update
Superintendent Mitchell met with the “Two Schools, One Mission” administrators, Anne Uberti and Alisha Lyons. A review of the mission and how it has worked for administrators and teachers was discussed. She plans to come back to the Board with the information she gathers.

XV. Executive Session:

A motion was made by Roxy Fainer and seconded by Beth Keutzer to move into Executive Session to discuss strategy or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

The Board members presented invited the following parties into Executive Session at 8:20 p.m.:

Superintendent, Lynda Mitchell
Business Manager, Sue Laone

Public Session:

On a motion made by Steve Catania and seconded by Beth Keutzer to move to Public Session at 8:34 p.m., no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

Board Motion:

On a motion made by Beth Keutzer and seconded by Steve Catania to approve/accept the retirement plan for non-certified staff; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

XVI. Adjournment:

On a motion made by Beth Keutzer and seconded by Roxy Fainer to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education at 8:50 p.m.; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.