

Minutes
THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting

Thomaston Town Hall – Meeting Room One

Date: Monday, June 13, 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, Roxy Fainer, Steve Catania, Laura (Rieley) Fitch, George Counter, Holly Herbert, Beth Keutzer, Joanne Gilland

Absent: Student Representatives Curtis Dunn and Alex Lee

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; Substitute Board Clerk, Marsha Potter

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:

Chair, Laurie Barrett led the pledge of allegiance.

III. Approval of Agenda:

On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Roxy Fainer to approve/accept the agenda; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes:

On a motion made by Roxy Fainer and seconded by Lucy Santopietro to approve/accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education dated Monday, May 9, 2011; no further discussion; Beth Keutzer and George Counter abstained; motion carried.

On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by George Counter to approve/accept the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education dated Monday, May 16, 2011; no further discussion; Laurie Barrett, Beth Keutzer, Steve Catania and Joanne Gilland abstained; motion carried.

V. Student Representatives' Reports:

None.

VI. Communications:

On a motion made by Beth Keutzer and seconded by Lucy Santopietro to approve/accept all Communications as presented;

Further discussion

Roxy Fainer asked John Perrucci on progress for filling positions open at Thomaston High School. He had interviewed ten applicants and was in the process of hiring.

Motion carried unanimously.

VII. Superintendent's Report:

A. Student of the Month – May: Alexander Lee

Alexander Lee attended the Rotary function. Superintendent Mitchell read a brief overview of his achievements and noted that he was a fine individual.

B. Student of the Month – June: Curtis Dunn

Curtis Dunn attended the Rotary function. Superintendent Mitchell described his accomplishments in and out of school and noted his successes and wished him well.

C. Strategic School Profiles – distributed to all Board members for their review over the summer. Superintendent Mitchell noted that this was last year's figures and that the many changes implemented by administrators this year would be reflected in next year's report. As they digest this information during the summer time, Board members will be asked to revisit the SSR in the fall. It was also noted by George Counter that the district was below the average in Per Pupil Spending and that many parents use this information when looking to move to a new district. The SSR is also available on web sites.

D. Summer Planning Session will take place July 6, 2011 in the Superintendent's Office at 8:30 a.m. All Board members were invited to attend along with administrators.

E. Summer Skill Packets will be put together by administrators for Math and Reading. These packets will be distributed to students. Copies will be available at the Superintendent's Office and placed on the district's web site. Grading and reviewing of work done by the student will be discussed at a later time.

F. Teacher Evaluation - A Connecticut Superintendent's Committee is currently working on this document with the Teacher's Union. Once this document is formulated, it will be reviewed by this district for use.

G. School Climate – A workshop was attended by Superintendent Mitchell and various other staff members. This program will replace the current anti-bullying practices both staff and students receive. Superintendent Mitchell stated this is the direction the schools should be proceeding in. This program will be implemented this coming year. Information will be disseminated to staff when reviewed and approved.

H. Teacher of the Year – Karen DePalma, Grade 4 teacher at the Thomaston Center School is the recipient this year. It was noted she was committed to her students and that all her hard work and effort in spite of health issues is to be commended. A reception will be held for her.

I. Susan B. Anthony Project: "Bullying" Rose McLaughlin and Jessica Marni. Jessica Marni and Rose McLaughlin were commended for their successful efforts.

VIII. Business Manager's Report:

A written addendum was prepared by Sue Laone concerning the update on the Thomaston High School boiler quotes. Sue Laone is looking into the feasibility of hiring an engineer to answer technical questions the vendors have asked. A special meeting will be convened, if needed, to address this problem. Moving forward with repairs/replacement is foremost. Timeline will have to be established.

IX. Administrators' Reports:

- A. Pupil Services Director, Nancy Schnyer
Ms. Schnyer's written report included her planned professional development with Pupil Services staff members per the State's recommendation on their focused monitoring visit. An autism preschool program will be piloted this summer and be offered at Black Rock for extended year service students. District would be notified in 2014 if they received grant money for training from SCSU.
- B. High School Principal, John Perrucci
Principal Perrucci had nothing to add to his written report but wanted to draw attention to item number four and wish to recognize Sarah Voor as being one of only thirty students in Connecticut to be recognized as a Governor's Scholar. Mr. Perrucci gave an update on his grading system. The committee's progress was submitted to the faculty and they will be meeting to finalize it with the staff. Once the high school has moved to Power Schools, they will look into the feasibility of paperless system to reduce costs.
- C. BRS/TCS: "Two Schools...One Mission", Anne Uberti
Principal Uberti commented that the donations of computers to library would be held to specs as recommended by Tim Polowy, Computer Technician. Grant money will also be looked into for purchasing computers. OSHA's written report will be forwarded to the Board when received by the Center School. Principal Uberti thanked the Thomaston Beautification Committee for cleaning out and mulching the flowerbeds in front of the school.

X. Standing Committee Reports:

- A. Budget:
1. Summary by Budget Line Y-T-D expenditures
 2. Budget Line Transfers
- On a motion made by Laura Fitch and seconded by George Counter to approve/accept the \$11,840,690.59. budget line expenditures and May monthly transfers as presented;
- Further discussion;
Homebound Instruction and Nurse's Sub salary over budgeted amount.
Explanation was offered and accepted.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Curriculum and Instruction:

1. Summer Work

Chair Laurie Barrett deferred to Principal Perrucci who stated that history is scheduled for review this summer with an annual review of curriculum for grades 7-12 scheduled. He also stated that students who need to attend summer school would have to go out of town. Others districts close by would be offering summer school.

C. Maintenance/Facilities:

1. Boilers/Thomaston High School/Update

Sue Laone is looking into the feasibility of hiring an engineer to answer technical questions the vendors have asked.

D. Technology:

1. Technology Committee Reconvene

Superintendent Mitchell will reconvene the Technology Committee on Wednesday, June 15th at 7:30 a.m. at Thomaston High School. She asked Board of Education members to volunteer for this Committee. Lucy Santopietro and Holly Herbert volunteered

E. Personnel:

1. Superintendent was empowered to act and contract with district personnel including appropriate non-renewed teachers over the summer. (Done annually)

On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Beth Keutzer; 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

XI. Public Participation:

Kathy Thompson

88 Trestle Lane

Two Schools, One Mission: Need to evaluate if one principal and assistant principal administrator plan is working.

Joyce Knowlton

1009 Hickory Hill Road

Two Schools, One Mission: Difficulty communicating with always changing administrators is hard both on students and staff. If there were one administrator for each building, it would benefit both the students and staff.

XII. Old Business: n/a

XIII. New Business: n/a

XIV. Items for Future Agendas:

- A. Social Networking – Subject Board needs to look at. Policy has been forwarded to Administrators. Copies will be sent to Board Members.
- B. Policy – Rehiring of retired staff – Law allows rehiring of retired staff members as substitutes.

XV. Executive Session:

A motion was made by Beth Keutzer and seconded by Joanne Gilland 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 8:05 p.m.:

Superintendent, Lynda Mitchell
Business Manager, Sue Laone

Public Session:

On a motion made by Roxy Fainer and seconded by Holly Herbert to move to Public Session at 8:40 p.m.; no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

Board Motion:

On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Roxy Fainer to approve/accept the AFSCME contract for one year 2011-2012; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

XVI. Adjournment:

On a motion made by George Counter and seconded by Roxy Fainer to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education at 8:43 p.m.; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.