



Minutes
THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting

Thomaston Town Hall – Lena Morton Gallery
Date: Monday, January 9, 2012
7:00 p.m.

Members: Lucy Santopietro, Chair; Roxy Fainer, Vice Chair; Kathleen Freimuth, Secretary; Holly Herbert, Treasurer; Rebecca Guay, Member; Alexander Lee, Member; Anne Petrucci, Member; Joanne Gilland, Member; Debra Schriver, Member

Minutes

Present: Lucy Santopietro, Roxy Fainer, Kathleen Freimuth, Holly Herbert, Anne Petrucci, Alexander Lee, Rebecca Guay, Debra Schriver, and Joanne Gilland

Absent: N/A

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 DiCorpo; High School Administrators, John Perrucci and Jonathan Kozlak; Board Clerk, Patricia George; and Student Representatives, Caroline Fox and Caleb Zenobia

I. Establishment of a quorum and call to order:

Board Chair, Lucy Santopietro, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance:

No flag present

III. Approval of Agenda:

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

- Under VII Communications, Item A New Hires, add a subsection item 2: Schedule K Position, Grade 5 Team Leader, Melissa Saramanidis
- Under VII Communications, Item A New Hires, add a subsection item 3: Schedule K Position, Head Teacher, Thomaston Center School, Sarah Morehouse
- Under X Administrators' Reports, add a PowerPoint presentation on the status of the "Two Schools...One Mission" to Ms. Uberti's report

- Under XI Standing Committee Reports, Item A, Budget, add a subsection Item 4, Early Retirement Discussions
- Under XI Standing Committee Reports, Item D, Technology, add a vote to accept/approve to Item 1, Odysseyware/PATHS Program/Credit Recovery

No further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes:

Special Meeting of the Board of Education dated Monday, December 12, 2011, 6:00 p.m.

On a motion made by Holly Herbert and seconded by Joanne Gilland to approve/accept the minutes dated December 12, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.; no further discussion; Lucy Santopietro abstains; motion carried.

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education dated Monday, December 12, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

On a motion made by Joanne Gilland and seconded by Holly Herbert to approve/accept the minutes dated December 12, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

Athletic Subcommittee Meeting dated Thursday, December 22, 2011

On a motion made by Anne Petrucci and seconded by Rebecca Guay to approve/accept the minutes dated Thursday, December 22, 2011; no further discussion; Alexander Lee and Holly Herbert abstain; motion carried.

V. Student Representative Reports:

Student Representatives Caroline Fox and Caleb Zenobia addressed the Board with their reports. Topics discussed included the change in the high school menu to a healthier selection and a “Glow-in-the-dark” fundraiser/dance scheduled for after mid-terms.

VI. Incredible Classroom/Student Presentation:

A. CAPT Scholar Recognition

Several students were recognized for their performance on the 2011 Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT). Board Chair, Lucy Santopietro presented each of those students with a congratulatory letter from Stefan Pryor, the Commissioner of Education.

VII. Communications:

A. New Hires:

On a motion made by Roxy Fainer and seconded by Kathleen Freimuth to approve/accept new hires as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

B. Resignations/Retirements/Exit Interviews: n/a

- C. Athletics:
 - 1. Athletic Trainer
Superintendent Mitchell along with members of the Athletic subcommittee and under the guidance of an attorney reviewed a contract for an athletic trainer. The services will be provided to the Boys' Varsity basketball team but will expand to include other athletic events in the future.
- D. Transfers: n/a
- E. Leaves of Absence: n/a
- F. Field Trips: n/a
- G. Correspondence:
 - 1. Honor Roll Letter – First Quarter
Superintendent Mitchell explained that at the end of each academic quarter she generates a letter to those students who achieved honor roll status as a way of recognizing their success.

VIII. Superintendent's Report:

- A. Student-of-the-month for January: Caroline Fox
Superintendent Mitchell noted that Caroline Fox is the student-of-the-month for January. She is scheduled to speak at a Rotary luncheon on January 12th.
- B. CAFE Training
Superintendent Mitchell established a Board training session on Saturday, January 7th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The session was held to assist newly elected Board members in their new role, as well as a refresher course for existing Board members. Nick Caruso from CAFE presented.
- C. Math-a-thon
The Central office received a communication from Kristin Raymond, a district faculty member, regarding a recent Math-a-thon which generated proceeds in the amount of \$1,525. Ms. Mitchell has invited Ms. Raymond to a future Board meeting to highlight the fundraiser and its subsequent success.

IX. Business Manager's Report: n/a

X. Administrators' Reports:

- A. Pupil Services Director, Nancy Schnyer
Ms. Schnyer indicated that she had been very busy working through state reporting. She also indicated that she had been working closely with Alisha, the Assistant Principal of the "Two Schools" mission, melding

together the Pre-K and K registration process, specifically the use of common forms.

- B. High School Principal, John Perrucci
Principal Perrucci had no further information to add to his written report but indicated he had a few topics later in the agenda that he would be discussing.
- C. BRS/TCS: “Two Schools...One Mission”, Anne Uberti
Ms. Uberti gave a Powerpoint presentation on the status of the “Two Schools – One Mission”. The report covered where the district started, what has been accomplished, the success of the mission and moving forward. Board member, Joanne Gilland noted that the information should be disseminated to parents.

XI. Standing Committee Reports:

- A. Budget
Items 1 and 2:
On a motion made by Holly Herbert and seconded by Kathleen Freimuth to approve/accept the Summary by Budget Line year-to-date expenditures of \$6,575,240.47 and the December 2011 transfers as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.
Item 3:
On a motion made by Holly Herbert and seconded by Kathleen Freimuth to approve/accept the Pre-K Tuition Rates as presented; no further discussions; motion carried unanimously.
Item 4:
Early Retirement Incentive
On a motion made by Kathleen Freimuth and seconded by Holly Herbert to approve/accept an Early Retirement Incentive for certified staff; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.
- B. Curriculum/Instruction: n/a
- C. Maintenance/Facilities:
 - 1. Boilers – High School
Principal Perrucci indicated that the boiler situation at the high school is still not favorable. It was the consensus of the Board to contact an attorney.
 - 2. 12/28/11 Smoke Test – Offensive Odor Study
Principal Perrucci indicated that there is a “sparatic” offensive odor that occurs at the high school, mostly after a heavy rain event. A smoke test was recently performed and several issues were revealed that will need to be addressed.

D. Technology:

1. Odysseyware/PATHS Program/Credit Recovery
Principal Perrucci would like to offer Odysseyware, an on-line learning tool typically used for credit recovery, as a pilot method of instruction for the district's PATHS Program come February. The intent would then be to move to the entire student body. He distributed a draft policy to Board members for review.

On a motion made by Joanne Gilland and seconded by Kathleen Freimuth to approve/accept the use of Odysseyware; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

2. Phone Update
Principal Uberti indicated that there have been serious problems with the phone system which culminated prior to the Christmas break. It appears to be more of an infrastructure issue as opposed to the new phone system. Currently, the school is in a "stand alone" mode which means the loss of the voicemail system and the 5-digit dialing capability between schools. A.T.T. is scheduled to visit the school in the near future to assess the situation.
3. District Technology Positions
Superintendent Mitchell indicated the technology position interviews have been conducted. Several candidates were called back to have an offer of employment. Those names will be brought before the Board for approval at the February Board meeting.

E. Personnel: n/a

F. Transportation: n/a

G. Athletics: n/a

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

H. Policy:

1. School Climate Presentation:
Assistant Principal Kozlak reiterated some of the information he provided at earlier BoE meetings on the subject of school climate and submitted the policy for approval.
2. School Climate Policy:
On a motion made by Holly Herbert and seconded by Kathleen Freimuth to approve/accept the School Climate policy which replaces the existing bullying policy; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

I. Government Relations: n/a

J. Affiliations: n/a

K. Legislation: n/a

XII. Public Participation: n/a

XIII. Old Business:

XIV. New Business:

XV. Items for Future Agendas:

A. "How Welcoming is Your School"

B. Math-a-thon/Kristin Raymond

XVI. Executive Session:

XVII. Adjournment:

On a motion made by Holly Herbert and seconded by Debra Schriver to adjourn the Regular meeting of the Board of Education at 8:40 p.m.; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.