



Minutes
THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting

Thomaston Town Hall – Meeting Room One
Date: Monday, February 13, 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, Holly Herbert, Kathleen Freimuth, Anne Petrucci, Alexander Lee, Debra Schriver, Rebecca Guay (arrived 7:19 p.m.)

Absent: Joanne Gilland and Student Board Representative Caleb Zenobia

Also Present: Superintendent, Lynda Mitchell; Business Manager, Susan Laone; High School Administrators, John Perrucci and Jonathan Kozlak; Black Rock School and Center School Administrators, Anne Uberti and Alisha DiCorpo; Pupil Services Director, Nancy Schnyer; Student Board Representative, Caroline Fox; and Board Clerk, Patricia George

I. Establishment of a quorum and call to order:

Board Chair Lucy Santopietro established a quorum and called to order the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education at 7:00 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance:

Ms. Santopietro led the Pledge of Allegiance

III. Approval of Agenda:

On a motion made by Kathleen Freimuth and seconded by Anne Petrucci to approve/accept the agenda with the following amendment:

Under XI. Standing Committee Reports, Subsection A, Budget, Item 2, transfers were revised to include \$22,511.94 in transfers for Center School and \$4,370.01 in transfers for Black Rock School. Pupil Services remains the same at \$1,688; no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes:

On a motion made by Roxy Fainer and seconded by Holly Herbert to approve/accept the minutes for the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education dated Monday, January 9, 2012; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Kathleen Freimuth to approve/accept the minutes for the Budget Subcommittee Meeting dated Monday, January 30, 2012; no further discussion; Holly Herbert, Anne Petrucci, Alexander Lee and Debra Schriver abstain; motion carried unanimously.

V. Student Representative Reports:

Student Representative Caroline Fox made a report to the Board regarding several activities at the high school which included information on a Glow-in-the-Dark Dance, Future Teachers' Read-out-Loud, and "Heart Healthy" month activities for February.

VI. Incredible Classroom/Student Presentation:

- A. Music Teacher, Kate Boyles was on hand along with several of her students. The group performed two drum ensembles, one that imitated the sounds of a thunderstorm from the wind to rain and thunder. The second selection echoed sounds from the country of Liberia. The audience was asked to participate in a song verse while the students performed their drumming piece.
- B. Kristin Raymond, a teacher at Black Rock School, used a Powerpoint Presentation to showcase money raised in support of St. Jude Children's hospital. The district has helped to raise \$30,977 over the span of 8 years. This year alone, \$1,525 was raised through the Math-a-thon fundraiser which was orchestrated by Ms. Raymond. Students in grades 2 and 4 will participate in St. Jude's telethon scheduled for March 4, 2012. Cablevision will broadcast the event from Torrington High School.

* Rebecca Guay arrives at 7:19 p.m.

VII. Communications:

A. New Hires:

On a motion made by Alexander Lee and seconded by Anne Petrucci to approve/accept the new hires as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

B. Resignations/Retirements/Exit Interviews:

On a motion made by Kathleen Freimuth and seconded by Holly Herbert to approve/accept the retirements as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

- C. Athletics: n/a
- D. Transfers: n/a
- E. Leaves of Absence: n/a
- F. Field Trips: n/a
- G. Correspondence:
Informational, as presented

VIII. Superintendent's Report:

- A. Student of the Month for January Caroline Fox
- B. Student of the Month for February Emily Normandin

Superintendent Mitchell reported that the two young ladies recently spoke at a Rotary luncheon. She stated that both students are very strong academically and take their work seriously.

- C. Emergency-based dismissal review:

The item was placed on the agenda as a follow-up to the recent bomb scare at the high school. Superintendent Mitchell and the administrators from the high school provided a brief overview of what transpires, both in Central office and at the building level, once the initial emergency is brought forward. This includes coordinating with the police and fire departments, the bus company and with administrators regarding a student exiting procedure. Superintendent Mitchell said that there are "many considerations at both levels".

IX. Business Manager's Report:

- A. 2011/2012 Six Months Ended Financial Summary (December 2011)
Questions were posed by several Board members relating to specific line items in Ms. Laone's report, Contracted Services and Printing to name a few.
- B. Phone update:
Ms. Laone and Ms. Uberti reported with cautious enthusiasm, that the Center School phones, after the installation of a switch, seem to be working at this point in time.

X. Administrators' Reports:

- A. Pupil Services Director, Nancy Schnyer
Ms. Schnyer was happy to state that the "Fiscal Compliance Review Desk Audit", a state report that has been worked on since November, was completed and sent in. "No news is good news", Ms. Schnyer commented as she has not had any negative feedback.

- B. High School Principal, John Perrucci
Principal Perrucci had no further comments to make but wanted to draw the Board's attention to 10 proposed courses for 2012-13 that were noted in his written report. The courses will ultimately require their approval to begin writing curriculum.

Mr. Perrucci stated that many of the courses offered may not necessarily be filled. There will be a minimum requirement of 7-8 students.

The courses have been included in the Program of Studies which may be located and reviewed on-line.

- C. BRS/TCS: "Two Schools...One Mission", Anne Uberti
Principal Uberti had nothing to add to her written report.

XI. Standing Committee Reports:

- A. Budget
On a motion made by Holly Herbert and seconded by Kathleen Freimuth to approve/accept the year-to-date expenditures in the amount of \$7,741,869.73 and the revised transfers as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.
- B. Curriculum/Instruction: n/a
- C. Maintenance/Facilities:
1. High School Boiler update
Superintendent Mitchell recently met with Ralph Gilnack, the head custodian at the high school to obtain an update on the on-going boiler concerns. Ms. Mitchell stated, "Things are not moving". She also contacted Schmidt Plumbing who is "supposedly" making an appearance this week and the town's attorney.
- 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. Cyberbullying (removed from agenda)
- J. Government Relations: n/a
- K. Affiliations: n/a
- L. Legislation: n/a

XII. Public Participation: n/a

XIII. Old Business:

- A. How Welcoming is Your School
Board members Roxy Fainer and Lucy Santopietro met with the Superintendent to review the “How Welcoming is Your School” initiative that they plan to move forward with in the district. Both members provided details and are currently working to structure a committee. A letter will be drafted to solicit parties asking for their support and involvement.
- B. Two Schools Mission/Administration
Superintendent Mitchell gave a brief overview of the configuration of the “Two Schools, One Mission” initiative, which has been in place for two years. Superintendent Mitchell noted that the administrators of Black Rock School and Center School, Principal Uberti and Assistant Principal, DiCorpo, worked together to accomplish the mission which was the merging of grades Pre-K to 6 in faculty and curriculum.

A result from a recent review of the mission concluded that the schools would be better served with one administrator (principal) assigned to each building while still carrying forward the basic mission initiatives. Ms. Mitchell felt that the timing was right to move forward with the configuration with the commencement of the new school year.

XIV. New Business:

XV. Items for Future Agendas:

Two Schools/One Mission

XVI. Executive Session:

On a motion made by Holly Herbert and seconded by Anne Petrucci to enter into Executive Session to discuss the performance of High School Principal, John Perrucci. The Board invited the following persons into Executive Session at 8:03 p.m., Superintendent Lynda Mitchell and Principal John Perrucci.

Public Session:

On a motion made by Roxy Fainer and seconded by Holly Herbert to move to public session at 9:36 p.m., no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

Board Motion:

The Board moved to reconvene on Thursday, March 1, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

XVII. Adjournment:

On a motion made by Kathleen Freimuth and seconded by Anne Petrucci to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education at 9:38 p.m., no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.