



Minutes
THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting
Thomaston Town Hall – Meeting Room One
Date: Monday, April 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, Holly Herbert, Kathleen Freimuth, Anne Petrucci, Alex Lee, Becky Guay and Debra Schriver

Absent: Joanne Gilland and Student Representative Caleb Zenobia

Also Present: Superintendent, Lynda Mitchell; Business Manager, Sue Laone; Student Representative, Caroline Fox; High School Principal, John Perrucci; Black Rock and Center School Administrators, Anne Uberti and Alisha DiCorpo; Pupil Services Director, Nancy Schnyer; 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 7:03 p.m.

- II. **Pledge of Allegiance:**
Board Chair, Lucy Santopietro, led the pledge of allegiance.

- III. **Approval of Agenda:**
A motion was made by Holly Herbert and seconded by Anne Petrucci to accept/approve the agenda with the following amendment:

To add under XVII., an Executive Session

No further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes:

On a motion made by Debra Schriver and seconded by Alex Lee to accept/approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education dated Wednesday, March 21, 2012 as presented; no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

On a motion made by Holly Herbert and seconded by Kathleen Freimuth to accept/approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education dated Monday, March 26, 2012 as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

On a motion made by Holly Herbert and seconded by Anne Petrucci to accept/approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education dated Monday, March 12, 2012 as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

V. Student Representative Reports:

Student Representative Caroline Fox was on hand and reported on SAGE, Interact and Student Council activities.

VI. Incredible Classroom/Student Presentation:

“The Central Naugatuck Valley Regional Action Council and Thomaston Public Schools have agreed to enter into a cooperative partnership for the purpose of gathering youth surveys that will be used in local planning efforts to identify problems and build strengths in the schools and community of Thomaston, CT. This will occur through the use of Search Institute Survey Services and their suggested presentation of the resulting community data”.

Rose McLaughlin, Social Worker at Thomaston High School and Jennifer Dewitt of CNVRAC were present at the Board meeting to provide an overview of the survey which will be administered to students in the near future. Ms. Dewitt spent a great deal of time explaining its purpose, how it will be administered, and what is done with the results once they are received.

The answers on the questionnaire will be kept strictly confidential. No names are placed on the survey forms. It is not a test, students are being asked to tell about themselves. Parents and students have the opportunity to opt out of taking the survey if they chose to do so.

VII. Healthy Food Certification

Section 2 Certification Statement:

On a motion made by Roxy Fainer and seconded by Holly Herbert to "...hereby certify 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, 2012 to June 30, 2013. 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.

Section 3 Exemption Statement:

On a motion made by Roxy Fainer and seconded by Alex Lee to "...hereby acknowledge 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.

VIII. Communications:

A. New Hires: n/a

B. Resignations/Retirements/Exit Interviews:

A motion was made by Anne Petrucci and seconded by Kathleen Freimuth to accept/approve the resignation of Business Manager, Sue Laone, effective June 1, 2012.

Further Comment

Superintendent Mitchell and the Board wished Sue well in her new endeavor and expressed that she would be sorely missed by the district.

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Athletics: na/

D. Transfers: n/a

E. Leaves of Absence:

On a motion made by Kathleen Freimuth and seconded by Debra Schriver to accept/approve the leave of absence as presented.

Further Discussion

Board members asked if there was anyone filling in while Ms. Batten was on leave. Principal Perrucci responded that no one would be filling in for Ms. Batten while out on leave.

Motion carried unanimously.

F. Field Trips:

A motion was made by Alex Lee and seconded by Holly Herbert to accept/approve the Field Trips as presented.

Further Discussion

With regards to the field trip to Six Flags New England, Board member Alex Lee inquired as to whether or not there was a policy still in place that allowed field trips that are non-academic in purpose.

Motion carried unanimously.

G. Correspondence: n/a

IX. Superintendent's Report:

A. Student-of-the Month:

Information on the Student-of-the-month will be brought forward at the May board meeting. The student has not attended the Rotary luncheon at this point in time.

B. Business Manager Position/Posting

Due to the importance of this position, the scope of responsibilities and the timeframe involved, Superintendent Mitchell explained that she wants to have the vacancy posted by Friday, April 13th at the very latest.

C. School Consolidation Plan

A school consolidation committee will be assembled to begin talks on the feasibility of consolidating schools in the district due to low future enrollment projections.

D. Meeting with Student Council

Superintendent Mitchell recently met with the Student Council to field questions and concerns they had surrounding the budget and the future of their school.

E. Relevance of Common Core Standards

Superintendent Mitchell wanted to keep the "term" on the agenda because it is a time consuming and costly state initiative that must be in place by 2014.

X. Business Manager's Report:

Written report as presented, no further comments.

XI. Administrators' Reports:

A. Pupil Services Director, Nancy Schnyer
Ms. Schnyer's verbal report focused on transition. Special Education students ages 16 to 21 are required to have a transition plan for life after high school.

B. High School Principal, John Perrucci
Mr. Perrucci had nothing further to add to his written report but felt that the Board may have questions pertaining to the sewage odor at the high school. Mr. Perrucci indicated that there are a number of other schools in the state that were either recently renovated or new construction that are experiencing the same sewage issue. He believes it may be the same contractor and has Ralph Gilnack, the head custodian at the high school researching the possibility.

Additionally, the origination point has been isolated to a vent in room 223, but now rectifying the problem is the issue.

C. BRS/TCS: "Two Schools...One Mission", Anne Uberti
Written report as presented, no further comments

XII. Standing Committee Reports:

A. Budget
On a motion made by Holly Herbert and seconded by Kathleen Freimuth to accept/approve the Summary by Budget Line y-t-d expenditures and the monthly transfers as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

B. Curriculum/Instruction:
1. Curriculum Council Meeting of 4/3/12
Common Core Standards update
Superintendent Mitchell deferred to Principal Perrucci. He indicated that more discussions will be needed with administration and that it is very overwhelming.

C. Maintenance/Facilities: n/a

- D. Technology:
 - 1. Web Page
Superintendent Mitchell reported that the current Thomaston School District web page is “under construction”. Tim Scatena is working to create a new look. Ms. Palomba’s art students will be used for their creative abilities.
 - 2. Intranet
Superintendent Mitchell was excited about the use of “intranet” in the district explaining that she could foresee its utilization as a staff training vehicle.
 - 3. Technology Committee Update
Ms. Mitchell indicated that the newly formed Technology committee looks powerful with Sue Santovasi, Jeff Dauphinais, and Michelle Dayton and Sue Santovasi as some of its committee members.
- 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
CABE Workshop: Legislative Wrap-up of the 2012 General Assembly: Roxy Fainer, Lucy Santopietro and Superintendent Mitchell have registered to attend the workshop scheduled for May 15, 2012 at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford.
- L. Legislation: n/a

XIII. Public Participation:

XIV. Old Business:

- A. Enrollment Study
The study is highlighted on the agenda to field further questions that the public may pose.
- B. Retired Teachers – Substituting
A conversation was started at the last Board meeting surrounding retired teachers subbing in the district. The intent is to continue with the

conversations until the Board comes to terms with their utilization as substitutes.

- C. Strategic School Profiles – Questions and Answers
The Superintendent continues to field any questions the Board or public may have on the SSPs.
- D. Curriculum for proposed high school courses – timeline and implementation
Discussions were had concerning the process for, and the timeline associated with, implementing new curriculum.

XV. New Business: n/a

XVI. Items for Future Agendas:

Superintendent Mitchell noted that she would like to include the following items for a future agenda, Teacher Evaluation, a Superintendent Action Plan, and Board Training Sessions which will include F.O.I. and Policy.

XVII. Executive Session:

A motion was made by Holly Herbert and seconded by Anne Petrucci to enter into Executive Session at 8:25 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

The Board invited the following persons into Executive Session:

Superintendent Lynda Mitchell
High School Principal, John Perrucci

Public Session:

A motion was made by Roxy Fainer and seconded by Debra Schriver to exit Executive Session at 9:10 p.m.; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

Board motion:

None

XVIII. Adjournment:

A motion was made by Roxy Fainer and seconded by Kathleen Freimuth to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education at 9:11 p.m.; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.