



**Minutes**  
**THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Regular Meeting**  
Thomaston Town Hall – Lena Morton Gallery  
Date: Monday, May 14, 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, Kathleen Freimuth, Alexander Lee, Roxy Fainer, Holly Herbert, Becky Guay, Anne Petrucci and Joanne Gilland

**Absent:** Debra Schriver and Student Board Representatives Caleb Zenobia and Caroline Fox

**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; 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 7:01 p.m.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance:**

No flag present

**III. Approval of Agenda:**

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

- Under VII. Communications, Subsection E., Leaves of Absence, add an Item 1, Doreen French, Nurse, Black Rock School, on or about May 18, 2012 to on or about May 29, 2012

- Under VII. Communications, Subsection E., Leaves of Absence, add an Item 2, Maureen Laplante, Secretary, Thomaston High School, on or about May 15, 2012 to on or about May 29, 2012

No further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

**IV. Approval of Minutes:**

On a motion made by Roxy Fainer and seconded by Kathleen Freimuth to accept/approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education dated Monday, April 9, 2012; no further discussion; Joanne Gilland abstained; motion carried unanimously.

On a motion made by Roxy Fainer and seconded by Kathleen Freimuth to accept/approve the minutes from the Budget Subcommittee meeting dated Monday, April 9, 2012; no further discussion; Alex Lee abstained; motion carried unanimously.

On a motion made by Alex Lee and seconded by Anne Petrucci to accept/approve the minutes from the Special Meeting of the Board of Education dated Monday, April 30, 2012; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

On a motion made by Joanne Gilland and seconded by Kathleen Freimuth to accept/approve the minutes from the Special Meeting of the Board of Education dated Monday, May 7, 2012; no further discussion; Roxy Fainer and Alex Lee abstained; motion carried unanimously.

**V. Student Representative Reports:**

No report

**VI. Incredible Classroom/Recognitions:**

- A. CABE Student Leadership Awards Program:  
The following students were presented with certificates as this year's CABE Student Leaders: Timothy Zebrowski, Justin Gallo, Julia Romaniello and Laura Miller. The award is designed to honor Connecticut students who exhibit leadership skills based on: willingness to take on challenges, capability to make difficult decisions, concern for others, ability to work with others, willingness to commit to a project, diplomacy, ability to understand issues clearly and ability to honor a commitment.
- B. Student Board Representative Recognition:  
Superintendent Mitchell publicly thanked Caleb Zenobia and Caroline Fox for their service as student representatives on the Board. A certificate of appreciation was generated and a small token of gratitude was provided

for each student. Unfortunately, the students were not able to attend the scheduled meeting and Principal Perrucci was asked to insure the students received their items.

- C. Volunteer Recognition:  
Volunteers were recognized at a reception prior to the Regular meeting of the Board. Each volunteer in attendance was presented with a certificate of appreciation.

**VII. Communications:**

- A. New Hires: n/a
- B. Resignations/Retirements/Exit Interviews: n/a
- C. Athletics: n/a
- D. Transfers: n/a
- E. Leaves of Absence:  
On a motion made by Roxy Fainer and seconded by Kathleen Freimuth to accept/approve the leaves of absence as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.
- F. Field Trips: n/a
- G. Correspondence:  
Informational – as presented

**VIII. Superintendent's Report:**

- A. Student-of-the-Month for April: Tyler Margison  
Tyler spoke at a Rotary luncheon recently and much to everyone's amazement, he did not have a speech prepared, but spoke freely on the topic of his family. Ms. Mitchell read from his resume and highlighted that he was a wrestling champion.
- B. Student-of-the-Month for May: Laura Miller  
Laura Miller, the most recent guest of Rotary, has a very good academic record, is an outstanding athlete and an excellent student leader.
- C. Graduation/Grade 8 Awards Night – Board Presenters  
Board members were solicited to present at the end-of-year Grade 8 Awards Night and High School Graduation. It was decided that Lucy Santopietro and Anne Petrucci (with the possibility of Debra Schriver) would present at Grade 8 Awards Night scheduled for June 14<sup>th</sup> and Lucy Santopietro and Becky Guay would present at the High School graduation scheduled for June 15<sup>th</sup>.

- D. Business Manager Position update  
Superintendent Mitchell updated the Board on the recent Business Manager interviews. She explained the process and indicated that she would like to have a final selection by week's end.
- E. Consolidation Committee Formation  
A "consolidation committee" will be established to address the feasibility and costs associated with consolidating schools in the district. The committee is being formed due to the projected decrease in enrollment. Members of the committee will be comprised of member(s) of the Finance Board, Parents, an Administrator from each building, the First Selectman, Police officer, Board members and the Superintendent of schools. BoE members Kathleen Freimuth and Anne Petrucci have asked to sit on the committee, thus far.

**IX. Business Manager's Report:**

Written report; as presented; no additional comments

**X. Administrators' Reports:**

- A. Pupil Services Director, Nancy Schnyer  
Written report; as presented; no additional comments

- B. High School Principal, John Perrucci  
Written report, as presented  
Principal Perrucci updated the Board on the sewage odor that has been permeating in the high school. The perpetrator looks to be an incorrectly wired exhaust fan adjacent to a sewer line which was drawing the odor into the building. Principal Perrucci noted that he would know for certain in the morning due to the inclement weather which seems to correlate directly with the offensive smell.

On the flipside, Mr. Perrucci shared with the Board the recent "beautification" project completed at the high school. A group of 50 people comprised of parents, students and staff assisted in the clean up efforts.

- C. BRS/TCS: "Two Schools...One Mission", Anne Uberti  
Written; as presented; no additional comments

**XI. Standing Committee Reports:**

- A. Budget
  - 1. Budget Line y-t-d expenditures/Month Transfers:  
On a motion made by Holly Herbert and seconded by Alex Lee to approve/accept the Budget Line y-t-d expenditures in the amount of

\$11,349,646.79 and the monthly transfers for April in the amount of \$500; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

B. Curriculum/Instruction:

C. Maintenance/Facilities: n/a

D. Technology:

1. Educational Technology Plan – July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2015

A motion was made by Holly Herbert and seconded by Joanne Gilland to approve/accept the Technology Plan as presented;

**Further Discussion**

Board member Roxy Fainer pointed out that maximum number of students were reported as opposed to percentages on page 8 – “online assessments” and would need to be corrected prior to submittal

Superintendent Mitchell wanted to acknowledge the individuals who worked on the plan which included Michelle Dayton and Jeff Dauphinais.

Motion carried unanimously.

E. Personnel: n/a

F. Transportation: n/a

G. Athletics:

Athletic Subcommittee Minutes dated Tuesday, May 1, 2012; informational; as presented

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

**XII. Public Participation:**

None

**XIII. Old Business:**

A. Retired teachers as district substitutes

The topic of utilizing retired teachers in the school district as substitutes was brought forward at several prior Board meetings without resolution. After discussion and comments this evening, it was the consensus of the members present to maintain the procedure currently in place which is to continue with their use. Comments expressed in favor included the difficulty in securing substitutes, familiarity with the district and school-level procedures, familiarity with students, and years of experience, to name a few.

A motion was made by Joanne Gilland and seconded by Holly Herbert to maintain the district's utilization of retired teachers as daily substitutes; no further discussion; Roxy Fainer objects; motion carried.

B. Board Training Sessions

Board Chair Lucy Santopietro in conjunction with Superintendent Mitchell will be establishing training sessions for the Board. Both Nick Grello, the Board's attorney and Nick Caruso from CAFE will be invited to present at those sessions, dates to be established.

**XIV. New Business:**

A. Going Green - Paperless

The idea of "going green" or paperless was brought forward by Board member, Becky Guay. She explained that she was able to view the athletic handbook, as example, on-line in several surrounding school districts and inquired as to whether Thomaston could do the same, thus saving the cost of paper, printing, etc.

Principal Perrucci indicated that he would like to move forward to paperless in the district.

Ms. Guay asked for a game plan and timeline to begin looking at the possibility. The "first wave" plan is expected for the August Board meeting.

**XV. Items for Future Agendas:**

**XVI. Executive Session:**

**XVII. Adjournment:**

On a motion made by Holly Herbert and seconded by Anne Petrucci to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education at 7:50 p.m.; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.