

Minutes
THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting

Thomaston Town Hall – Meeting Room One
Date: Monday, June 11, 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 (7:02 p.m.), Becky Guay, Anne Petrucci and Joanne Gilland (7:04 p.m.), Debra Schriver (7:01 p.m.)

Absent: Student Representative, Caroline Fox

Also Present: Superintendent, Lynda Mitchell; Business Manager, Nancy O’Dea-Wyrick; High School Administrator, John Perrucci; Black Rock School and Center School Administrator, Alisha DiCorpo; Pupil Services Director, Nancy Schnyer; Board Clerk, Patricia George; Student Representative, Caleb Zenobia

- 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:**
Lucy Santopietro led the pledge of allegiance
- III. Approval of Agenda:**
On a motion made by Alex Lee and seconded by Anne Petrucci to accept/approve the agenda as presented; 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 Board of Education minutes for the Regular meeting dated Monday, May 14, 2012; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

On a motion made by Roxy Fainer and seconded by Alex Lee to accept/approve the Board of Education minutes for the Special meeting dated Tuesday, May 29, 2012; no further discussion; Kathleen Freimuth and Anne Petrucci abstained; motion carried.

On a motion made by Kathleen Freimuth and seconded by Becky Guay to accept/approve the Board of Education minutes for the Special meeting dated Wednesday, June 6, 2012; no further discussion; Anne Petrucci abstained; motion carried.

V. Student Representative Reports:

Student Representative Caleb Zenobia was on hand and brought forward one concern from the student body, the budget cuts and what affect they would ultimately have on class selection. Ms. Santopietro indicated that the information he requested would be noted further along in the meeting.

VI. Incredible Classroom/Recognitions: n/a

VII. Communications:

A. New Hires: n/a

B. Resignations/Retirements/Exit Interviews:

1. On a motion made by Kathleen Freimuth and seconded by Anne Petrucci to accept/approve the resignation as presented;

Further Discussion:

Superintendent Mitchell shared some of the information she obtained during her exit interview with Hillary Marcinko, a speech pathologist in the district who is resigning from her position for family reasons effective August 16th.

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Athletics:

Board member Becky Guay provided an overview of accomplishments for spring athletic events noting that several teams made the states including Baseball, Softball and Girl's tennis. Four students on the Boy's tennis made states as well, and the Girl's Track and Field team placed 2nd in Class S.

D. Transfers:

1. Alisha DiCorpo

Effective July 1, 2012, Alisha DiCorpo will move from Assistant Principal of Black Rock School and Center School to Principal of Black Rock School.

Superintendent Mitchell explained the interview process for the transfer which was an approved 2012/2013 budget transition.

E. Leaves of Absence: n/a

F. Field Trips: n/a

G. Correspondence: n/a

VIII. Superintendent's Report:

- A. Student-of-the-Month for April: Kyle Belanger
Superintendent Mitchell stated that Kyle, who recently spoke at a Rotary luncheon and who is #5 in his class, participates in a series of activities and sports and is pursuing a career in medicine.
- B. Teacher-of-the-Year: Debra Gritt
Thomaston's teacher-of-the-year for 2013 is Debra Gritt, an elementary teacher at Black Rock School. A Board reception will be held in her honor in September, once the teachers return.
- C. Class Size/"Harvard Review": Informational piece relating to class sizes and an examination of them from different perspectives
- D. District Goals
Superintendent Mitchell reviewed the goals that were established nearly two years ago by the Board and provided an update as to where the district currently is with each of them. One area that had Board concern and brought forward discussion involved the district's teacher evaluation document and process. Ms. Mitchell explained that the state is currently reviewing teacher evaluation and is in the process of creating a document which will be piloted in several districts, Litchfield being one. Some Board members thought that the current document in place in the district could be changed. Administrators explained that it would entail a great deal of work, including working with the Union, and it would prove to be pointless because the district should look to model theirs after the state's document once it becomes available.
Lunch Price Increase:
Lunch prices for Black Rock School and Center School will be increasing from \$2.50 to \$2.60

IX. Business Manager's Report:

Superintendent Mitchell formally presented Ms. Nancy O'Dea-Wyrick to the members of the Board of Education. She spoke on some of her positions including that of being a Board of Finance member in Kent and that as a Chair to the Board of Education.

- A. Thomaston Public Schools, 403(b) Plan revisions
On a motion made by Joanne Gilland and seconded by Holly Herbert to accept/approve the 403b plan revisions which would allow for employer contributions due to the changes in the town's pension plan for non-union employees; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.
- B. Business Manager's Report – May 2012: as presented
- C. 2011/2012 Year End Projections: as presented

X. Administrators' Reports:

- A. Pupil Services Director, Nancy Schnyer
Nancy highlighted Hop for Leukemia and Lymphoma which was held on May 14th at Black Rock School. The children raised \$200 for the cause.
- B. High School Principal, John Perrucci
Principal Perrucci reported that faculty member, Karen Zyjeski, applied for and received a grant in the amount of \$14,000. Plans are to replace every computer in her lab. He also indicated that an individual, who shall remain anonymous at this point, had made contact with him with the possibility of donating school related items including smart boards, study centers, desks, computer tables, etc.
- C. BRS/TCS: "Two Schools...One Mission", Alisha DiCorpo
Assistant Principal Alisha DiCorpo highlighted some of the information in her written report including the successful transition visits for third and sixth graders to Center School and the High School respectively and the entering of testing data into Powerschool commencing in the fall of 2012 which will stream line the process of recording and monitoring student progress.

XI. Standing Committee Reports:

- A. Budget:
On a motion made by Holly Herbert and seconded by Debra Schriver to accept/approve the Budget Line Y-T-D expenditures and transfers as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

Additional Cuts:

With the failed referendum, the Board of Finance cut an additional \$80,000 from the BoE budget. A meeting of the budget subcommittee was had and the following adjustments were established:

Bus Elimination	\$43,904
Diesel Savings	\$ 2,216
Business Manager's Salary	\$13,230
Unemployment	\$ 4,527
Speech Pathologist	\$16,123

The committee and Superintendent consulted with the bus company for the feasibility of eliminating the one bus prior to making a final decision.

B. Curriculum/Instruction: n/a

C. Maintenance/Facilities: n/a

D. Technology:

Michelle Dayton, a member of the Technology committee, was invited to the Board and was pleased to report on what “a wonderful job” the newly configured technology department was doing. She also reported on what was being accomplished in the district under the new configuration including Powerschool, new e-mail utilizing Google, various training sessions, a new Help Desk, and memory upgrades. She also indicated that the Technology Plan was recently submitted to the state and that a revision of the Acceptable Use Policy is underway.

E. Personnel:

A motion was made by Joanne Gilland and seconded by Becky Guay to empower the Superintendent to act and contract with district personnel including appropriate non-renewed teachers over the summer; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

F. Transportation: n/a

G. Athletics: n/a

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

I. Policy:

1. Bomb Scare Policy

Following an event in the district, several meetings were held which included Fire Marshal, Bob Norton. The purpose of the meeting was to review and edit the district’s bomb scare policy. The policy was then forwarded to the policy subcommittee for a read through which prompted several inquiries by member Joanne Gilland. She asked the administrators how the teachers were alerted. She also asked for clarity regarding the referenced footage in the policy, are they standards?

On a motion made by Becky Guay and seconded by Debra Schriver to accept/approve the Bomb Scare policy with edits made to the referenced footage.

J. Government Relations: n/a

K. Affiliations: n/a

L. Legislation: n/a

XII. Public Participation:

None

XIII. Old Business:

A. "Going Green"

Board member Becky Guay wanted to keep the momentum going on this topic and to continue to investigate what the district can do electronically and place more communication on-line.

Superintendent Mitchell explained that Steve Lewis, President of the Thomaston Savings Bank, would be attending the next administrator's meeting. Mr. Lewis has a wealth of information to provide on going "paperless" as the bank is now in the process.

XIV. New Business:

A. Superintendent's Annual Evaluation

It was the consensus of the Board to hold the Superintendent's annual evaluation in June. A special meeting will convene on June 27th at 6:00 p.m. in Executive Session for such matters.

XV. Items for Future Agendas:

XVI. Executive Session:

XVII. Adjournment:

On a motion made by Becky Guay and seconded by Holly Herbert to adjourn the Regular meeting of the Board of Education at 8:36 p.m.; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.