

**Thomaston Public Schools**  
**Budget Subcommittee Minutes**  
**January 20, 2009**  
**Superintendent's Office**

**DRAFT**

Members present: Laurie Barrett, Debbie April, Cheryl Roberts, Steve Catania (via conference call)

Also present: Lynda Mitchell, Susan Laone, Holly Herbert, Paul Johnson, Jim Diorio, Jim Wenker, Nancy Schnyer, John Perrucci, Pat Henderson, Pat Horbal

Members absent: Lucy Santopietro

The meeting was called to order 6:25 pm.

The Superintendent went through line items that could possibly yield some savings. She stated by using the line item approach, this would be decimating the budget and still not get us to the percent that is needed. She also stated that lay offs should be one of our last options. The Board agreed.

The Business Manager went through the approximate reductions of \$40,000 from the prior meeting. The reductions were savings of \$7,431 in salary expense for a lower salary grade. The electrical budget was reduced by \$14,209, PATHS Transportation was reduced by \$7,020 (originally budgeted 180 days, program runs 144 days), natural gas was reduced by \$7,000 and capital was reduced by \$5,000.

The Board discussed what it would need to get to an approximate increase of 2.7%. The budget would need to be reduced approximately \$400,000. The Board discussed with the union representatives present the possibility of concessions. The representatives agreed to go back and discuss concessions with their unions. The unions will notify the Board/Superintendent of any decisions by February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The question was asked, "what was plan B", if there were no union concessions. The Board replied it would have no choice but to look at programs and positions.

The Board also asked that we look at Pay to Play sports and run calculations if the fee were to increase to a flat \$100 per sport for middle school and high school.

Meeting adjourned 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Laone