

**Thomaston Public Schools  
Budget Subcommittee Minutes  
February 5, 2009  
Superintendent's Office, Thomaston Town Hall**

Members present: Laurie Barrett, Lucy Santopietro, Cheryl Roberts, Steve Catania (via conference call)

Also present: Lynda Mitchell, Susan Laone, Holly Herbert, Jim Wenker, John Perrucci, Jim Diorio, Paul Johnson, Marie Galbraith

Members absent: Debbie April

Laurie Barrett called the meeting to order 6:06 pm. On a motion by Cheryl Roberts and seconded by Lucy Santopietro. Motion carried unanimously.

The subcommittee was updated on the union decisions regarding concessions for 2009- 2010. The administrators notified the BOE that they were willing to concede wages with an additional 10 non work days in 2009- 2010 and as of July 1, 2010 the agreement would be commence with the third year of the contract.

The teachers voted not to make any concessions.

The AFSCME union met earlier in the day and voted to rollover their contract to 2009- 2010. There are a few stipulations that were not communicated as of this evening. The Board will be updated once official notification is received by the union.

There were discussions about sharing an elementary school principal. More research needs to be done in this area in regards to required certifications in the absence of a principal.

The subcommittee agreed to shoot for an overall increase of around 3.5% to be presented to the full Board and Board of Finance.

Transportation was reduced by approximately \$35,000. The district has had discussions with Worhunsy Bus Company and Terryville Public Schools. We will be working on savings by combining out of district bussing with the two districts. The subcommittee also agreed to have a two tiered bussing system between Black Rock School and Thomaston Center School. This will change the start and end times of the schools.

Sports is being reduced by \$40,000. The Athletic Director will be asked to make the reductions based on his expertise.

Marie Galbraith, Thomaston Board of Finance Member, reported the Town was looking for a 0% increase.

Reductions were taken from the following line items: textbooks \$20,000, library books and supplies \$10,200, video tapes and software \$6,700, capital and equipment replacement \$19,505 and district cell phones \$4,000.

There was discussion on class size and the impact that would have in the district. The subcommittee is recommending the reduction of one music teacher and one art teacher at the elementary level.

The final budget to be presented at the Board of Education Meeting on February 9, 2009 is a 3.35% increase over 2008- 2009.

On a motion by Holly Herbert and seconded by Cheryl Roberts to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM.  
Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Laone