

**MINUTES**  
**THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Special Meeting**

Thomaston Town Hall – Meeting Room One

Date: Monday February 22, 2010

7:00 p.m.



**Members:** Laurie Barrett, Chair; Beth Yaffe, Vice Chair; Lucy Santopietro, Secretary; Laura Rieley, Treasurer; Joanne Gilland, Holly Herbert, Roxy Fainer, George Counter and Steve Catania, Members

**Present:** Laurie Barrett, George Counter, Beth Yaffe, Roxy Fainer, Joanne Gilland, Holly Herbert

**Absent:** Steve Catania, Lucy Santopietro, Laura Rieley

**Also Present:** Superintendent, Lynda Mitchell; Business Manager, Sue Laone; Board Clerk, Patricia George; High School Principal, John Perrucci; Center School Principal, James Diorio; Black Rock School Principal, Paul Johnson; Pupil Services Director, Nancy Schnyer

**I. Establishment of a quorum and call to order:**

Board Chair Laurie Barrett established a quorum and called to order the Special Meeting of the Board of Education at 7:04 p.m.

**II. Approval of Agenda:**

On a motion made by Beth Yaffe and seconded by Holly Herbert to accept/approve the agenda as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

**III. Public Participation:**

None

**IV. Proposed 2010/2011 Budget:**

Utilizing a Power Point presentation, Superintendent Mitchell began the budget discussions by providing what she deemed a “mini education” on the financial responsibilities of Special Education in the district. She discussed the special education process, cost and execution of services, and the impact on the general education funding. She also highlighted the federal law that secures special education services for children with disabilities from birth until graduation from high school.

One slide outlined the 2009/2010 out of district costs for a number of special education students. This included tuition costs, transportation costs and the net cost to the Board.

Another slide represented the historical special education costs versus state excess cost reimbursements. The graph clearly showed that the state excess cost reimbursements are not in alignment with the special education costs to the district, making it more difficult for the district to cover the rise in costs and the number of students requiring special education services.

Business Manager Sue Laone, continued the presentation with the regular education budget followed by a combined budget. Sue noted that the largest increase to the budget was employee benefits at \$274,479. In conclusion, the overall 2010/2011 budget provides for maintaining services, adds a business teacher to the high school and sustains stimulus programs put into place in 2009/2010 which include math remediation k-6, an after-school program for k-6 and three special education teachers.

Board member Roxy Fainer asked Sue Laone if any certified staff members had applied for the early retirement incentive which was offered. Sue noted that there were plenty of inquiries but none had applied.

On a motion made by Beth Yaffe and seconded by Holly Herbert to approve/accept the 2010/2011 budget with a 5.01% increase as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

**V. Adjournment**

On a motion made by Beth Yaffe and seconded by Roxy Fainer to adjourn the Special Meeting of the Board of Education at 8:08 p.m.; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.