

Minutes
THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting

Thomaston Town Hall – Meeting Room One
Date: Monday, December 10, 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, Holly Herbert, Roxy Fainer, Anne Petrucci, Alexander Lee, Joanne Gilland, Becky Guay, Debra Schriver

Absent: Kathleen Freimuth

Also Present: Superintendent, Lynda Mitchell; Business Manager, Nancy O'Dea-Wyrick; High School Administrators, John Perrucci and Jonathan Kozlak; Black Rock School Administrator, Alisha DiCorpo; Center School Administrator, Anne Uberti; Pupil Services Director, Nancy Schnyer; Student Board Representatives, Sarah Guay and Phil Sechow; and 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 7:00 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance:

Lucy Santopietro led the pledge of allegiance

III. Approval of Agenda:

On a motion made by Holly Herbert and seconded by Anne Petrucci to accept/approve the agenda with the following amendment;

Under VII. Communications; Subsection A., New Hires; add an item 3; Virginia Roman, Special Education Paraprofessional, Thomaston Center School, 18 hrs per week

No further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes:

On a motion made by Joanne Gilland and seconded by Alexander Lee to accept/approve the minutes dated Monday, November 19, 2012 as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

V. Student Representative Reports:

Student representative Phil Sechow reported on Student Council activities, preparation for Spirit week, Jute Box fundraising efforts and PSATs.

Sarah Guay was not available at the time the reports were to be presented but provided a written report, which Board Chair Lucy Santopietro read. Her report included the following information: Juniors received their PSAT scores, second marking period has started, Girls' basketball team won their first league game last week against Shepaug, the Boys' basketball will have their first game at Gilbert on Wednesday and the Wrestling team will have their first match on Wednesday also.

VI. Incredible Classroom/Recognitions: n/a

VII. Communications:

1. New Hires/Replacements:

On a motion made by Debra Schriver and seconded by Holly Herbert to accept/approve the new hires as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

1. Resignations/Retirements/Exit Interviews: n/a

1. Schedule K Positions:

On a motion made by Debra Schriver and seconded by Becky Guay to accept/approve the Schedule K assignments as presented:

Further discussion:

Chairperson Lucy Santopietro explained that the positions presented for approval were due to resignations and that they had to be reposted. She elaborated on the TEAM reflection reviewers, formerly known as BEST, indicating that these positions are required in the district.

Board member Alexander Lee inquired about the High School Class Advisor position, which should have been depicted as High School Student Council Advisor. Correction noted.

Principal Perrucci was asked to explain the duties of the Head Teacher position. The responsibilities of the party holding this position include basic disciplinary actions, bus duties, and reporting tardy students.

Motion carried unanimously.

1. Athletics:

On a motion made by Joanne Gilland and seconded by Alexander Lee to accept/approve the wrestling coach assignment as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

1. Transfers: n/a

1. Leaves of Absence: n/a

1. Field Trips: n/a

1. Correspondence:

The correspondence included in the Board packet was informational, as presented and required no further discussion.

1. School Calendar

On a motion made by Debra Schriver and seconded by Anne Petrucci to accept/approve the 2013/2014 school calendar as presented;

Further discussion

Superintendent Mitchell explained that the district continues to work collaboratively with Terryville and Wolcott to form a commonality as a cost savings initiative. The school calendar is just one piece; transportation and professional development are planned for the future.

Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Superintendent's Report:

1. Student-of-the-month:

Superintendent Mitchell plans to highlight the December student-of-the-month at the January Board meeting. He is scheduled to appear as a guest speaker at the Rotary luncheon later in the week.

1. Teacher Evaluation Committee

One piece of what is occurring under Educational Reform across the state is the teacher evaluation process. With this initiative, the Thomaston district implemented a teacher evaluation committee. They held their first meeting where principals Uberti and DiCorpo provided an overview. Superintendent Mitchell explained that there are many segments and pieces, and that it is an extremely involved process.

C. Consolidation Committee

In the Superintendent's budget of a year ago, which was presented to the Board of Finance, the term regionalization was brought forward. Ms. Mitchell noted that there is a piece of legislation addressing funding with regards to enrollment numbers. If enrollment were to fall below 1,000 students, state funding will decrease. This could have a significant impact on the district. Subsequently, a committee was formed to begin the initial research of consolidation/regionalization as enrollment projections indicate a decrease. The district is currently working with Jonathan Costa from Education Connection and a meeting of the committee was currently had. Superintendent Mitchell stated that unfortunately people are quoted outside the committee meeting. She noted that there are no definitive actions or established timeline at this point. Discussions will continue.

IX. Business Manager's Report:

The Business Manager reported on the 2013/14 budget stating that the packets had gone out to the administrators and budget subcommittee members and she is hoping to get them back this week.

X. Administrators' Reports:

A. Black Rock School, Alisha DiCorpo/Thomaston Center School, Anne Uberti
Written, as presented; no oral report

1. Thomaston High School, John Perrucci

Principal Perrucci reported that Thomaston High School has been recognized by the state as a school of improvement, a school of distinction for overall improvement in the CAPT scores.

C. Pupil Services, Nancy Schnyer

Ms. Schnyer asked that the Board approve the new tuition rates for preschool as noted in her report to the Board. The increase is 5%. The item is tabled for the January Board meeting with a vote to accept/approve.

Ms. Schnyer indicated that she will be the oversight/contact person for Sue Graham who works as a Community Outreach person in the district. Ms. Schnyer will oversee how Ms. Graham will be utilized.

XI. Standing Committee Reports:

1. Budget:

On a motion made by Holly Herbert and seconded by Anne Petrucci to accept/approve the summary by budget line y-t-d expenditures in the amount of \$5,508,038.09 and transfers in the amount of \$26,515.60; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

1. Curriculum/Instruction:

Superintendent Mitchell will continue to put curriculum on the agenda until there is a final design. Ms. Mitchell explained that curriculum is very important and the consistency from one building and one grade to the next is significant. A sample design was included for the Board to read. The committee will link everything to the state standards, including professional development. Thoughts for the design include, "How do we do curriculum? What are our

Out-of-district: Cardinal

Further discussion:

The district worked with Wolcott and Plymouth to see what kind of cost savings it would bring in the market place to get a combined bid. The bid process was done for both regular and out-of-district transportation. For the regular education there were four bidders, one was not considered because the bid specifications were not adhered to.

Out-of-district Pupil services brought in five bidders. Cardinal was the lowest bidder and commended to the Board for approval.

The contract is for a five year period. If the contracts are not accepted by the Boards of Education in Plymouth and Wolcott, they will have to go out to bid again.

Motion carried unanimously.

G. Athletics: n/a

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

I. Policy:

1. Board Goals

Lynda had provided her goals for the district at a prior meeting of the Board. Lucy asked that the Board review those goals and offer any edits. They should then be utilized to create goals for the Board of Education.

1. Cell Phone Policy

On a motion made by Alexander Lee and seconded by Joanne Gilland to accept/approve the cell phone policy as presented

Further Discussion:

Board member Becky Guay made an inquiry regarding Black Rock and Center School cell phone usage during lunch and recess. The response was that the administrators of the buildings would modify the policy and apply it in their respective buildings depending on the age level appropriateness.

There were a few revisions that Ms. O'Dea-Wyrick will need to make to the policy presented and then a clean copy is to be e-mailed to each of the Board members and included in the January 2013 Board agenda.

Under "Responsible use":

- Change supervising teacher to supervising staff in the first bullet
- Eliminate the second bullet

- Violations: Consequences will be determined by the school administration up to and including expulsion
- Remove four bullets.

Motion carried unanimously.

J. Government Relations: n/a

K. Affiliations:

Tabled for January 2013

1. Legislation: n/a

XII. Public Participation: n/a

XIII. Old Business:

1. Start time for 2014 BoE meetings
2. Field Trip to Greece in Spring 2014

Continue to carry forward

XIV. New Business:

XV. Items for Future Agendas:

XVI. Executive Session:

A motion was made by Holly Herbert and seconded by Anne Petrucci to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of strategy with regards to Collective Bargaining/Negotiations at 8:35 p.m., the Board invited Superintendent Mitchell and Business Manager Nancy O'Dea-Wyrick into executive session; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

Public Session:

On a motion made by Anne Petrucci and seconded by Joanne Gilland to enter into Public Session at 8:58 p.m.; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

Board Motion

The Board moved to accept the Agreement between the Thomaston Board of Education and Local 1303-97 of Connecticut Council 4 American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees AFL-CIO dated July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015; motion made by Roxy Fainer and

seconded by Anne Petrucci; no further discussion; Alexander Lee abstained; motion carried unanimously.

XVII. Adjournment:

On a motion made by Joanne Gilland and seconded by Alexander Lee to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education at 9:00 p.m.; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.