

Minutes
THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting

Thomaston Town Hall – Teen Center

Date: Monday, July 22, 2013

6:00 p.m.



Members: Roxy Fainer, Chair; Alexander Lee, Vice Chair; Kathleen Freimuth, Secretary; Holly Herbert, Treasurer; Rebecca Guay, Member; Maureen McMahon, Member; Anne Petrucci, Member; Joanne Gilland, Member; Debra Schriver, Member

Minutes

Present: Roxy Fainer, Debra Schriver, Alexander Lee, Becky Guay, Kathleen Freimuth and Holly Herbert

Absent: Joanne Gilland, Anne Petrucci

Also Present: Superintendent Francine Coss

I. Call to Order

Board Chairperson, Roxy Fainer called the Special Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:07 p.m.

II. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Holly Herbert and seconded by Kathleen Freimuth to accept/approve the agenda as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

III. Introduction of new Superintendent to the Thomaston Citizenry:

Board Chairperson Roxy Fainer provided a brief overview of the Superintendent search which began in March 2013. A pool of twenty-one candidates was narrowed down to seven with three called back for second a interview. The top candidate and ultimate contender, Mrs. Francine Coss, began her career in the New Haven Public School system. Most recently, she served the Columbia School District in several capacities including Superintendent of Schools, Principal, and Assistant Principal.

Mrs. Coss said she had been warmly welcomed by community members. One of her immediate concerns is to address the worry surrounding regionalization and/or consolidation – she said there will be no changes until the district has the data. She encouraged the townspeople to stop by and visit her.

IV. Potential action on Board of Education vacancy

The following nominations were cast to fill the Board of Education seat vacated by the resignation of Lucy Santopietro until the November 2011 election:

A motion was made by Holly Herbert and seconded by Kathleen Freimuth for Ms. Julianne Ingham;

A motion was made by Becky Guay and seconded by Alexander Lee for Maureen McMahon;

Julianne Ingham: One (1) vote was cast in favor of Julianne Ingham

Maureen McMahon: Five (5) votes were cast in favor of Maureen McMahon

The Board elects Maureen McMahon to serve as one of its members until the November 2011 election.

Nomination of Board Chairperson

Superintendent Coss asked the Board to select a Chairperson.

Roxy Fainer was nominated by Becky Guay.

Nomination of Vice Chairperson

Alexander was nominated by Becky Guay to serve as Vice Chairperson

Kathleen Freimuth was nominated by Holly Herbert to serve as Vice Chairperson

The Board voted for Alexander Lee three (3) votes to Kathleen Freimuth's two (2) votes.

V. Long-Term Educational Utilization Plan Summary/Update: Superintendent Francine Coss

- June 29th, BOE met at Education Connection with consultant Arum and Associates
- The committee is looking at all dimensions of education, not just facilities
- Identify Challenges (Aug-November), Determine Options (Nov-March), Select option and discuss Implementation/Details (March-May)
- Rules:
 - Stick to plan
 - Don't go backwards or forwards (no making assumptions, look at data before decision-making)
 - Communication about the plan and our progress
 - Update to Plan:

- 1) Dr. Peter Prowda (enrollment projection consultant) and John Ireland (architect) will be asked to present their findings to BOE in Fall 2013
- Invite any interested participants to be put on a list for involvement in the process
- Mr. Prowda will present to the Board after the October 1 census (enrollment) data is finalized and analyzed

VI. Executive Session (anticipated) for the purpose of Attorney/Client Privileges

A motion was made by Kathleen Freimuth and seconded by Holly Herbert to enter Executive Session at 6:38 p.m. for the purpose of Attorney/Client Privileges; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously. The Board invites Superintendent Francine Coss into Executive Session.

Public Session

A motion was made by Kathleen Freimuth and seconded by Becky Guay to enter Public Session at 7:42 p.m.; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

Board Motion

None

VII. Adjournment

On a motion made by Kathleen Freimuth and seconded by Becky Guay to adjourn the Special Meeting of the Board of Education at 7:42 p.m.; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.