

**Minutes**  
**THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Special Meeting**  
Thomaston Town Hall – Meeting Room One  
Date: Monday, February 25, 2013  
6:30 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, Kathleen Freimuth, Holly Herbert, Joanne Gilland, Debra Schriver and Roxy Fainer

**Absent:** Alexander Lee, Becky Guay, and Anne Petrucci

**Also Present:** Superintendent, Lynda Mitchell; Attorney for the Board, Nick Grello; the Grievant, Marie Eldridge; AFSCME Council, Tim Oppenheimer; and Former AFSCME President, Patricia Horbal

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

Board Chair Lucy Santopietro established a quorum and called to order the Special Meeting of the Board of Education at 6:33 p.m.

### **II. Approval of Agenda:**

On a motion made by Joanne Gilland and seconded by Kathleen Freimuth to accept/approve the agenda as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

### **III. Superintendent Search:**

A motion was made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Joanne Gilland to appoint the Thomaston Board of Education as the Superintendent Personnel Search Committee in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes 1-200(2), Freedom of Information; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

**IV. Grievance Matter:**

The grievance was brought before the Board by Marie Eldridge, a paraprofessional at Black Rock School. The focus of the grievance is her seniority date, which is currently 9/2/2008. Ms. Eldridge argues that her seniority date is 8/30/2001, her original hire date. However, a letter of resignation was signed by Ms. Eldridge in June of 2008 leaving her position at Thomaston High School and was accepted by the Board of Education at their August meeting. Ms. Eldridge was subsequently rehired in August 2008 when a position opened at Black Rock School. Ms. Eldridge and Tim Oppenheimer, Council for the AFSCME group, argued that there was no discontinuation of her service in the district and that she should not lose seniority. It was stated that, Mr. Paul Johnson, Principal at Black Rock School at the time, had made verbal promises to Ms. Eldridge, but there was no substantiating documentation of such. (Patricia Horbal, former AFSCME union president, also sat in on these discussions.)

**V. Executive Session:**

A motion was made by Holly Herbert and seconded by Kathleen Freimuth to move into Executive Session at 7:13 p.m.; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

The Board invited Superintendent Lynda Mitchell and Attorney for the Board Nick Grello into Executive Session.

**VI. Public Session:**

On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Holly Herbert to move to Public Session at 7:27 p.m.; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

**Board Motion:**

On a motion made by Roxy Fainer and seconded by Holly Herbert to deny the grievance; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

**VII. Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Joanne Gilland and seconded by Holly Herbert to adjourn the Special Meeting of the Board of Education at 7:28 p.m.; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully,

Kathleen Freimuth  
Board Secretary